

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <u>DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS MANUAL</u> |   |
| <b>COAL MINE SAFETY ACT</b>  | <b>CHAPTER 14.4</b>   |
| <b>ARTICLE 2</b>   | <b>WORK AREA EXAMINATIONS, RECORDKEEPING, AND REPORTING</b> |
| <b>Issue Date: 4/10/00</b><br><b>Revised Date:</b>                                 | <b>Page 1 of 2</b>  |

**Section 45.1-161.256., 257.**

**Safety Examinations**

**Records of Examinations**

Examinations are required for work areas, mobile equipment, mine refuse piles, and electrical equipment at all active surface mines and surface areas of underground coal mines where miners are assigned to work. Records which document these examinations must be provided and maintained at the mine site available for inspections.

**On-shift Examinations of Work Areas**

On-shift examinations must be performed by a certified foreman each production shift and more frequently if required by the Chief. Should a mine inspector determine a condition or practice which would warrant more frequent examinations, such as particularly adverse pit high walls or other conditions, this concern should be addressed with the Chief to consider requiring more frequent examinations.

On-shift examinations of work areas are required during surface face-up work for underground mines and through completion of initial reclamation work at a licensed mine. Where scalp rock or other materials are being hauled and deposited from one surface mine location to another, daily examinations of work areas as described in 45.1-161.256 D will meet the examination requirements.

On-shift examinations are required when any or all normal production activities are scheduled and being performed. This would include, but is not limited to, pushing spoil, removing overburden, haulage, loading, blasting, watering of roadways, etc. When only servicing of equipment, repair and maintenance and other typical non-production work is being performed by the operator or a contractor on weekends or at any other time, an on-shift examination is not required by the MSA.

**On-shift Examination of Mobile Equipment**

All surface mobile equipment must be examined once each production shift. Pre-operational examinations of equipment by operators or other authorized personnel may be accepted as fully meeting this requirement for on-shift examination. Records of the

examination of each separate piece of mobile equipment must be maintained sufficient to confirm that a program for examination is in place and being followed. All examinations of surface mobile equipment must include checks for hazardous conditions which would affect safe operation, such as condition of brakes, steering and other mechanical and safety features of the equipment. Coal truck haulage equipment used at licensed mine sites, whether contracted or performed by the operator, must be provided the required on-shift safety examination.

### **Examination of Electrical Equipment and Wiring**

All surface stationary and mobile electrical equipment (transformers, lighting units, associated wiring) must be examined by a certified mine electrician at least monthly. Also, this requirement applies to the surface areas of underground coal mines.

### **Record of Examinations**

All examinations required by section 45.1-161.256 must be documented in a mine record book maintained for this purpose. Examinations of mobile equipment, fire extinguishers and refuse piles may be performed and recorded by authorized persons. On-shift examinations of work areas, electrical examinations and test for methane must be performed by certified persons. In all cases, the documentation and record of examinations is the responsibility of the operator and his certified agents.

Mobile equipment examination records should be maintained with the equipment. Each piece of equipment should have a record. At least 10 consecutive workdays of examination records should be available to establish that an examination program is in effect. Hazardous conditions detected during mobile equipment examinations must be corrected and reported to the mine foreman. Documentation of the hazardous condition and correction must be made in the mine on-shift record book.

Examinations of fire extinguishers by authorized persons may be documented by recording the date of the examination on a permanent tag attached to the extinguisher.

### **Inactive Areas**

Inactive surface coal mines or inactive surface areas of underground mines must be examined by a certified mine foreman prior to any miner performing work in such an area. A surface mine or surface area is deemed inactive when idle for sixty days or longer.