

Workplace Examinations

Since 2000, 13,732 citations or orders were issued to Metal/Nonmetal mine operators related to workplace examinations, including 83 issued for fatal and non-fatal accidents.



Fatal #2 2-21-14



Fatal #21 12-13-13



Fatal #22 12-10-13

Examine all working places to detect any unsafe or unhealthful conditions, practices, or equipment and take the necessary steps to correct them.

30 CFR § 56.18002 Examination of working places.

(a) A competent person designated by the operator shall examine each working place at least once each shift for conditions which may adversely affect safety or health. The operator shall promptly initiate appropriate action to correct such conditions.

(b) A record that such examinations were conducted shall be kept by the operator for a period of one year, and shall be made available for review by the Secretary or his authorized representative.

(c) In addition, conditions that may present an imminent danger which are noted by the person conducting the examination shall be brought to the immediate attention of the operator who shall withdraw all persons from the area affected (except persons referred to in section 104(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977) until the danger is abated.

A "competent person," defined in §§ 56/57.2, as "a person having abilities and experience that fully qualify him to perform the duty to which he is assigned." This definition includes any person who, in the judgment of the operator, is fully qualified to perform the assigned task. MSHA does not require that a competent person be a mine foreman, mine superintendent, or other person associated with mine management.

The phrase "working place" is defined in 30 CFR §§ 56/57.2 as: "any place in or about a mine where work is being performed." As used in the standard, the phrase applies to those locations at a mine site where persons work during a shift in the mining or milling processes.

Workplace Exams Are Required and Necessary

