

On-Shift Examination of Respirable Dust Controls at Underground Coal Mines



Health Hazard Information Card HH-40

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

➤ Mine operators are required to specify the dust controls that will be used on each mining section in the mine operator's MSHA approved ventilation plan.



➤ Continuously maintaining the dust controls will help protect miners from exposure to excessive concentrations of respirable coal mine dust that contribute to the development of “black lung” and silicosis lung disease.

➤ Respirable dust controls specified in the approved ventilation plan are generally engineering controls such as:

- ✓ Water sprays,
- ✓ Ventilation quantities,
- ✓ Dust scrubbers, etc.

➤ Respirable dust controls specified in the approved ventilation plan are required to be examined each shift:

- ✓ On sections where production is interrupted during a shift change, the examination must be made prior to the start of production.
- ✓ On sections where the shift change is accomplished without interrupting production (“hot seating”), the examination must be performed within 1 hour of the shift change.

- The on-shift examination of dust controls can be conducted by any person designated by the mine operator, including a miner that operates the mining equipment.
- Persons performing the on-shift examination of dust controls must:
 - ✓ Be familiar with the requirements in the approved ventilation plan
 - ✓ Must have the appropriate measurement equipment (pressure gauge, anemometer, etc.) available and be familiar with its proper use.
- The on-shift examination of dust controls must include:
 - ✓ Air quantities and velocities
 - ✓ Water pressures and flow rates
 - ✓ Evaluation of excessive leakage in water delivery system
 - ✓ Water spray numbers and orientation
 - ✓ Section ventilation and ventilation control placement
 - ✓ Any other measures specified in the approved ventilation plan
- Dust control parameters not working as specified in the approved ventilation plan must be corrected prior to production beginning or resuming.
- The certified person directing this on-shift examination must certify by their initials, date and time that the examination was completed.

If you have questions about coal mine health matters, please contact your local MSHA office or see the MSHA website at www.msha.gov.