

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Docket: MSHA-2014-0030

Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines. 30 CFR Parts 56 and 57

Comment On: MSHA-2014-0030-0001

Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

Document: MSHA-2014-0030-0052

Comment from James Reger, Massachusetts Aggregate and Asphalt Producers Association

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General Comment

As the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Aggregate Producers Association I feel that I can speak on behalf of the producers and miners that produce stone, sand and gravel in our Commonwealth. This new proposed rule will cost far more than the estimate put forth in the narrative. They did not take into consideration that under most union rules the shift starts at the same time for all members. With 4 laborers and 2 operating engineers R&M employees standing by waiting for the shift to start at rates of \$85 per hour you are looking at a cost of \$400-\$500 +/- every day. We see no advantage to doing a pre-shift inspection especially in the early mornings in the fall when lighting may not cover the entire plant. We much rather have the on going inspection process where everyone is vigilant and looking for hazards all day - not just at start up. We are also skeptical that the recording logs will be used as another way to write citations on work that has already been corrected - why not document the issue until it has been corrected! As we all know safety isn't about equipment - it is about workers and management's behavior. The smallest producers will be punished the most as they have the least resources to conduct this pre-shift inspection.

James M. Reger

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Executive Director
MAAPA