

U. S. Department of Labor

Mine Safety and Health Administration
100 Bluestone Road
Mount Hope, WV 25880-1000



Date: January 21, 2009

LETTER TO UNDERGROUND MINE OPERATORS IN DISTRICT 4

FROM:

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District Manager
District 4

(b) (7)(C)

Subject:

Revision to Procedures for Annual Ventilation Map
Reviews

This letter applies to mine operators with active underground mines which are required to submit annual mine ventilation maps in accordance with 30 CFR 75.372. 30 CFR 75.372 requires, an annual mine ventilation map to be both up-to-date, and certified that the map is accurate. District 4 is revising its policy in regard to ventilation reviews which are performed on annual ventilation maps.

Effective February 1, 2009, mine maps which contain significant errors which indicate the map is not up-to-date or accurate, and which appear to have a significant material affect on the mine ventilation system in any area(s) of the mine or which do not contain all the required items specified in 75.372 will be subject to appropriate enforcement action during the *first review* of the mine map.

The intent of this policy change is not to increase the number of ventilation violations issued, but rather to increase the accuracy of mine maps and to reduce the amount of time necessary for their review. In order to help prevent the issuance of citations of this type, a copy of the checklist utilized by the Ventilation Department is attached to this letter for your use.

If you have questions or comments concerning this policy change, please feel free to contact the Ventilation Department at 304-877-3900 at extension 140.