

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 11/19/15 1:23 PM
Received: October 25, 2015
Status: Posted
Posted: November 19, 2015
Tracking No. 1jz-8lvw-nion
Comments Due: December 01, 2015
Submission Type: Web

Docket: MSHA-2014-0019

Proximity Detection Systems for Mobile Machines in Underground Mines

Comment On: MSHA-2014-0019-0001

Proximity Detection Systems for Mobile Machines in Underground Mines

Document: MSHA-2014-0019-0088

Comment from Tyler Horne, NA

Submitter Information

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General Comment

I support this regulation to begin using Proximity Detection Systems for continuous mining machines in addition to the mobile machines it is already being used on. The main point of contention in this regulation is safety. Worker safety always should come first, and I think this proposition has the appropriate safety measures in place to keep miners safe while allowing them to continue their work unimpeded. I think that the fact that these proximity detection systems have already been put into the field on mobile equipment and other machines and have been successful in completing their intended tasks is justification enough to begin equipping them on continuous mining machines as well.

We know that these systems work in the field, so the other point of contention would be costs and effects on work productivity. The additional costs of equipping these systems on the continuous machines needs to be considered of course, but in my opinion, worker safety should come before any reasonable cost. The fact that these systems are already being used on other machines proves that they should be implemented on all equipment that poses movement based threats. Also, as long as the additional equipment needed to put these systems into the field doesn't prohibit workers from doing their jobs effectively, I say there should be no problem adding these to all applicable mines in the US. This regulation is should continue field tests and be implemented as soon as possible.

AB78-COMM-2

11/19/2015