

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
NATALIE E. TENNANT
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #5

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FILED

2014 APR 23 P 2:00

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

AGENCY: Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety TITLE NUMBER: 36

CITE AUTHORITY: 22A-6-4

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL _____ INTERPRETIVE _____

EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE X

CITE STATUTE(s) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

22A-6-4; 22A-6-8

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES _____ NO X

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

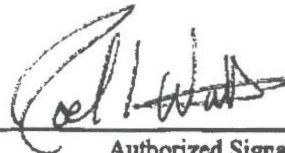
TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: 57

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: Rules Governing Proximity Detection Systems and Haulage Safety
Generally

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE

EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS 1 July 2014



Authorized Signature

AB 78-COMM-24-1

**TITLE 36
LEGISLATIVE EXEMPT RULES
BOARD OF COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**SERIES 57
RULES GOVERNING PROXIMITY DETECTION SYSTEMS AND HAULAGE
SAFETY GENERALLY**

§36-57-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- These rules pertain to the implementation of provisions designed to protect miners from injuries sustained when becoming contacted by or caught between or by mobile equipment and other equipment or structures mobile or stationary in underground sections of coal mines operating in West Virginia.

1.2. Authority. -- West Virginia Code § 22A-6-4.

1.3. Filing Date. -- April 23, 2014.

1.4. Effective Date. -- July 1, 2014.

§36-57-2. Definitions.

2.1. Proximity detection system. -- A system that would be capable of detection, providing a warning, and safely shutting down equipment.

2.2. Rebuilt. -- Continuous mining equipment or other mobile face equipment that has been removed from production and the mine to be repaired or refurbished.

2.3. Director. -- Director shall mean the director of the Office of Miner's Health, Safety, and Training or the director's authorized representative.

§36-57-3. Proximity Detection System Requirements.

3.1. A proximity detection system must be capable of providing an automatic audible or visual warning and stops the equipment at intervals established for the mine that prevent contact with persons;

3.2. A proximity detection system must prevent movement of the equipment if the system is not functioning properly; provided, however, movement is permitted for purposes of relocating the equipment from an unsafe location during malfunction for repair or emergencies;

3.3. A proximity detection system must be installed to prevent interference with or from other electrical systems; and

3.4. A proximity detection system must be installed and maintained by a person trained in the installation and maintenance of the system.

§36-57-4. Proximity Detection Systems Implementation Schedule.

4.1. A proximity detection system shall be installed and maintained on all new place change continuous miners purchased and taken underground by January 1, 2015.

4.2. A proximity detection system shall be installed and maintained on all rebuilt place change continuous miners taken underground by July 1, 2015.

4.3. All existing place change continuous miners in operation shall be refitted with a proximity detection system by July 1, 2017.

§36-57-5. Care, Maintenance, and Performance Minimum for Proximity Detection Systems.

5.1. At the beginning of each shift or prior to any initial operation, all proximity detection systems and units worn by individuals shall be tested to ensure working order. A record of malfunctions and corrections shall be included in a book designated by the director.

5.2. Maintenance of all proximity detection systems and units worn by individuals shall be maintained in accordance with safe operating procedures.

5.3. The director shall impose all applicable penalties pursuant to West Virginia Code §22A-1-21 on any person that, without the authorization of the operator or the director or the director's authorized representative, knowingly tampers or attempts to tamper with a proximity detection system or related equipment, approved by the director.

§36-57-6. Requirements for Section Haulage Equipment.

6.1. By 1 July 2017, scoops, diesel powered equipment, and other battery powered section haulage equipment operating in-by the section loading point not provided with compatible proximity detection systems shall at a minimum:

6.1.a. Employ cameras; or

6.1.b. Be equipped with other alternatives as recommended by the West Virginia Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety and approved by the director that provide warnings to equipment operator and or persons who are traveling in the area.

§36-57-7. Establishing a One Hundred Twenty (120) Day Time Frame for Delivery of Information to Those Working in Active Underground Coal Mines.

7.1. The director, in conjunction with the mining community, shall within one hundred twenty (120) days of the passage of this rule visit each mine and provide information on the

availability, installation procedures, and safety advantages of using cameras or proximity devices on underground haulage equipment.

7.2. In carrying out this function, the director shall consult with the West Virginia Board of Miner Training, Education & Certification, the West Virginia Mine Safety Technology Task Force and the mining community including technology equipment manufacturers.

7.3. The director and the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety shall also conduct voluntary, open-industry regional workshops within six (6) months on all aspects of haulage safety including the acquisition and use of cameras and proximity devices and its application to underground mining equipment along with its demonstrated safety advantages and limitations and the use of strobe lights, extension rods (pogo sticks) or cones, underground.

§36-57-8. Pre-Operation Equipment Checks Expanded.

8.1. In addition to the provisions under §36-18, all equipment operators shall:

8.1.a. Ensure adequate visibility and that there are no extraneous objects on top the equipment that serves to inhibit or restrict operator visibility. It shall be the responsibility of the equipment operator to remove such items from the equipment; and

8.1.b. Inspect audible warning devices and cameras, if applicable.

§36-57-9. Equipment Operators to Check Haulage Routes.

9.1. In addition to the provisions under West Virginia Code of State Rules §36-30-1 *et seq.*, before operating a piece of section haulage equipment on a working section underground for the first time during a shift, the equipment operator shall physically walk the path of travel to observe for hazards or non-routine work being performed in the path of travel or any individual that may be in path of travel.

§36-57-10. Equipment Operators to Sound Warning Devices.

10.1. All equipment operators of underground section haulage equipment shall sound the audible alarm on the equipment at the start-up and when approaching and moving through any brattice material or check curtains to warn any miner in the vicinity.

§36-57-11. Reflective or Highly Visible Materials Requirements.

11.1. By October 1, 2014, mine operators shall provide all miners with at least 100 square inches of reflective or highly visible material to be worn at all times while underground in a coal mine in this state. The reflective or highly visible material shall be readily visible and on the outer garments so as to be seen from all directions.

§36-57-12. Designated Work Site Program.

12.1. Approved strobe lights, extension rods (pogo sticks) or cones shall be used in all working sections of an underground mine where maintenance, repair or rehabilitation work is being performed and where there is an unusually high risk of collision or contact by any other equipment that may be traveling in the affected area. Approved strobe lights, extension rods (pogo sticks) or cones shall be installed so as to provide warning and caution others approaching of the work area. If an approved strobe light is not utilized, a minimum of four (4) extension rods (pogo sticks) or four (4) cones or other devices approved by the director must be used in each travel way of the affected area.

§36-57-13. The Director Shall Expedite Extended Mining Plans.

13.1. The Director of the Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training shall immediately, upon passage of this rule, communicate the need of expediting approval of extended-cut mining plans in order to reduce occurrences of underground haulage safety concerns to the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the U.S. Department of Labor. The director shall immediately seek intra-agency coordination of extended-cut plans, where appropriate, to minimize occurrences of all section equipment from being relocated or place-changed underground, thus minimizing unnecessary and repetitive movement.

13.2. The director shall also undertake an analysis to determine whether all dust control measures can be met and roof stability maintained at all prospective extended-cut mining operations. The director shall cause to be surveyed and analyzed a variety of underground coal mines across the state and report back to the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety in a timely manner.

§36-57-14. Industry-Wide Regulatory Notice.

14.1. The mine operator shall conduct a briefing of the rules with all personnel at the mine within fifteen (15) days upon receipt of the rules from the director.