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Examinations of Working Places in Metal and Nonmetal Mines

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Comment from Anonymous Anonymous, NA

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General Comment

As stated in this document, "mining operations have dynamic work environments where working conditions can change rapidly and without warning." Mines already do workplace examinations at the beginning of each shift and the miners themselves must be competent as they are the ones present at all times during the shift. In a dynamic environment where conditions can change without warning a miner must be responsible for identifying hazards to themselves and others in the area. Otherwise, the potential hazard mitigation would be delayed which could result in accidents, injuries, and even fatalities that would not have resulted if the miner was alert and responsible for identifying the potentially hazardous condition. If a miner is not competent to do this on their own they are putting others at risk and therefore are not competent to do their job. A supervisor being solely responsible for a miner's safety will leave large gaps in the workday for a miner's safety. Safety must be a coordinated effort between the operator and the miner to prevent or quickly mitigate hazards. Changing the rule to say that the operator is solely responsible for workplace examination undermines that joint effort and could result in miners not reporting a potential hazard promptly which would then have the time to balloon into something with more hazardous outcomes. Safety must be a joint effort with miners fully engaged and aware of the dangers. This new ruling could have the effect of removing the majority of the mining employees from recognizing and addressing potential hazards before they become accidents that harm themselves or others in the area.

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