

## 2014 Final Dust Rule Ventilation Changes (75.300) for Underground Coal Mines

The final rule makes several changes to the existing ventilation regulations applicable to underground coal mine that impact control of respirable coal mine dust. The major changes will be discussed below. You should read the entire final rule to ensure familiarity with all the rule provisions.

### **75.325 Air Quantity:**

This provision establishes that the quantity of air reaching the working face must be determined at or near the face end of the ventilation control device (line curtain, tubing, etc.). The final rule adds a provision requiring that the quantity of air reaching the working face must be determined with any machine mounted dust collector turned off if using blowing face ventilation.

### **75.350 Belt Air used as Intake Air:**

This section has been modified to include the updated intake air standard. The intake air standard is reduced 24 months after the effective date of the rule from 1.0 mg/m<sup>3</sup> to 0.50 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.

### **75.362 On-Shift Examination:**

Subparts (a) (2) and (g) (2) address the on-shift examinations related to respirable dust controls. Subsection (a) (2) has been modified to now require that the on-shift examination and corrective actions related to respirable dust controls be recorded. The examination shall include:

- air quantities and velocities;
- water pressures and flow rates;
- excessive leakage in the water delivery system;
- water spray numbers and orientations;
- section ventilation and control device placement;
- roof bolting machine dust collector vacuum levels;
- scrubber air flow rate;
- work practices required by the ventilation plan; and
- any other dust suppression measures.

Subsection (g) (2) has been extensively revised. First, it now requires that the certified person directing the on-shift examination, certify that the examination has been performed by placing their initials, date and time on a board maintained at the section load-out or similar location. This will enable persons on the section to readily determine that the examination was conducted. Secondly, additional provisions have been included requiring that the results of the on-shift examination must be recorded in a secure book. The recorded examination is then verified by initials and date. The individual records then must be countersigned by the mine foreman or equivalent mining official after being verified by the certified person that directed the examination. Finally, the records of the

on-shift examinations must be maintained at a surface location at the mine for at least 1 year.

**75.371 Mine Ventilation Plan; Contents:**

Several changes have been included in Subsection (f) of this section. These changes require more specific information on respirable dust controls used on each MMU.

Mine operators will now be required to include the following information in the approved mine ventilation plan:

- The type of section and face ventilation that will be used.
- The minimum air quantity that will be delivered to the working section including drawings illustrating how each system will be used.
- A description of each dust suppression system used on equipment, identified by make and model, on each working section including:
  - 1) the number, types, location, orientation, operating pressure, and flow rate of water sprays;
  - 2) maximum distance ventilation controls will be installed from each working face when mining or installing roof bolts;
  - 3) procedures for maintaining roof bolt dust collection system in approved condition; and
  - 4) recommended best practices for equipment operators to minimize dust exposure.

Subsection (j) has been revised and will now require the mine operator to include in the mine ventilation plan the following information pertaining to machine mounted dust collectors.

- Type and size of (mesh) of the dust collector screen.
- A description of how the dust collectors will be maintained.