

## **1.0 PURPOSE**

This document establishes a Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Standard Application Procedure (SAP) for the Acceptance of Non-steel Lifelines under 30CFR, Part 18.65.

## **2.0 SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all applications for Acceptance of Non-steel Lifelines under 30CFR, Part 18.65. The use of this procedure is voluntary.

## **3.0 REFERENCES**

- 3.1. Approval and Certification Center (A&CC) Cancellation Policy APOL 1009.
- 3.2. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 30 (30CFR) Part 18.65.
- 3.3. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 30 (30CFR) Part 75.380
- 3.4. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 30 (30CFR) Part 75.381

## **4.0 DEFINITIONS**

- 4.1. Applicant – An individual or organization that manufactures or controls the assembly of a product, and that applies to MSHA for approval of that product.
- 4.2. Company assigned application code number – a unique six digit number assigned by the applicant that is used for the tracking of the application paperwork.
- 4.3. Directional Indicators (or directional marking devices) – Any device installed on a lifeline used to provide direction via tactile feedback.
- 4.4. Extension of Approval – A modification to an existing approval that requires MSHA to extend the original approval to incorporate the changes.
- 4.5. Lifeline – A durable, rope-like or rigid flame-resistant material that provides a tactile feedback.
- 4.6. Non-steel Lifeline – A lifeline that does not use steel for its main structure and strength integrity.

- 4.7. Preauthorization notice – A statement by the applicant authorizing MSHA to spend a stated amount of money for evaluating the applicant's product prior to the preparation and issuance of the MSHA fee estimate.

## 5.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 5.1. It is recommended that applicants contact the Quality Assurance & Materials Testing Division at 304-547-0400 to discuss acceptance and testing requirements prior to submitting an application.

- 5.1.1. An application requesting an acceptance should be sent to the following address:

MSHA, Approval and Certification Center  
Attention: IPSO  
765 Technology Drive  
Triadelphia, West Virginia 26059

- a. FAX to: 304-547-0400

- b. Email Submittals:

Application letters, specifications, drawings, and other supporting documentation should be sent to [zzMSHA-IPSO@DOL.gov](mailto:zzMSHA-IPSO@DOL.gov)

- c. FTP Submittals:

Application letters and supporting documentation can be placed on the MSHA FTP server, [mfgr.msha.gov](http://mfgr.msha.gov). Please call the Information Processing Services Office (IPSO) at 304-547-0400 to establish your user account.

- 5.1.2. Each application for approval of a product must be in the English Language and include the following information on the attached application form (Attachment 1A, Item 1).

- a. Company name
- b. Address
- c. Telephone and FAX number
- d. Name of company representative

- e. Provide your company Employer Identification Number (EIN) and Tax Identification Number (TIN).

5.1.3. Provide a company assigned application No. (six digit or less) (Attachment 1A, Item 2).

5.1.4. Provide the following information for the product (Attachment 1A, Item 3):

- a. Trade name
- b. Style or code
- c. Weight &/or weave density

5.1.5. Each ingredient must be specified by its chemical or generic name, along with its percentage (weight) and tolerance. Organic ingredients should be named according to the current rules of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Inorganic ingredients should be named according to the Chemical Abstract of the American Chemical Society. A prepolymer formulation which has been registered with MSHA may be identified by furnishing the MSHA assigned ID number. However, each additional ingredient the manufacturer adds to the registered formulation (ID number) must be identified by chemical or generic name, along with its percentage (weight) and tolerance (Attachment 1A, Item 4).

5.1.6. Test Specimens

A quantity of four (4) test specimens must be provided, six (6) inches long. If the lifeline material varies by weight (oz./yd.), four of the lightest weight, and four of the heaviest weight will be tested; the approval then will include all weights in between. Braided type lifeline will be tested in its original construction in six (6) inch lengths. Rigid lifeline or solid parts of a lifeline will be tested in minimum and maximum thicknesses (Attachment 1A, Item 5).

Directional indicators will not be subject to the requirements of this procedure and therefore 30CFR Part 18.65, unless they provide the structural integrity and continuity of the lifeline.

MSHA reserves the right to modify testing as required to provide equivalent testing on unusual constructions.

5.1.7. Provide a copy of the finished product's Materials Safety Data Sheet in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1200 (Attachment 1B, Item 6).

5.2. Quality Assurance

Provide the following information pertaining to the manufacturer's quality assurance procedures (Attachment 1B, Item 7):

- a. Procurement procedures for the components or ingredients of the product,
- b. Manufacturing practices to maintain the formulation,
- c. Procedures for record keeping, such as test results,
- d. Critical characteristics that will be flame resistant tested &/or inspected to ensure that the finished product meets the flame resistant test requirements.

5.3. Toxicity Statement

Provide a signed Certification Statement regarding Toxicity of the finished product (Attachment 1B, Item 8).

5.4. Extensions of Approval

Any change in the approved product from the documentation on file at MSHA that affects the technical requirements must be submitted to MSHA for approval prior to implementing the change. An extension of approval application is administered in the same manner as the original approval request.

5.5. Notification of Discrepancy

The applicant will be notified of any deficiencies/corrections that need to be corrected. Deficiencies/corrections will be resolved in accordance with the A&CC's Cancellation Policy (APOL 1009).

5.6. Fees

5.6.1. Upon receipt of a complete application, an estimate for the cost of processing the application (cap letter), including testing will be sent to the applicant.

5.6.2. The applicant may “preauthorize” the estimate in order to eliminate the “cap” letter. Check with MSHA personnel for the present amount.

5.7. Application Processing

5.7.1. Upon receipt of the company agreement to the cap estimate (or preauthorization), MSHA will place the application in queue based upon date received, to begin the evaluation of the application, including testing.

5.7.2. After confirming that all the required information listed in the application form (Attachments 1A & B) has been received, and upon successful testing of the product(s) and receipt of laboratory test data report(s) with certifications, MSHA will prepare an approval letter for the applicant.

5.8. Labeling

An approved product must be permanently and legibly labeled with the approval designation as directed by MSHA. If the MSHA approval designation cannot be marked on the product, it may be permanently and legibly marked with the assigned MSHA approval number on all shipping spools and/or containers. MSHA reserves the right to permit alternate forms of labeling.

5.9. Test Failure

If a product should fail the test, one retest will be allowed based on a written request by the applicant. The request for retest must provide the justification for such action, such as improvement in product information and amendment of original application. Based upon the justification and at MSHA’s discretion, the retest may consist of any sizes that were originally tested; otherwise, only the specific size that passed the test will be issued an approval.

## Attachment 1A

### Lifeline Acceptance Application Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. (Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
Company EIN \_\_\_\_\_ Company TIN \_\_\_\_\_
2. Company Assigned Application No. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Product Description \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Trade Name \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Style, Code No. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Weight or weave density \_\_\_\_\_
4. Formulation

Ingredient	% by Weight	Tolerance ( $\pm$ %)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
5. The following samples were sent for testing:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Attachment 1B

6. A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each of the final products or for the hazardous chemical components used to manufacture the final end product is attached: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (If No, attach explanation).
7. The following information pertaining to the manufacturer's quality assurance procedures are attached:
  - a. Procurement procedures for the components or ingredients of the product, Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (If No, attach explanation).
  - b. Manufacturing practices to maintain the formulation, Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (If No, attach explanation).
  - c. Procedures for record keeping, such as test results, Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (If No, attach explanation).
  - d. Critical characteristics that will be flame resistant tested or inspected to ensure that the finished product meets the flame resistant test requirements. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ (If No, attach explanation).
8. Toxicity Statement:

I certify that the product in its final form and under normal use conditions does not present a toxicity hazard to miners.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Company Official)

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_