

WORKPLACE EXAMINATIONS

SURFACE

METAL/NONMETAL

30 CFR Part 56.18002

1977 Mine Act

- SEC. 2. Congress declares that—
- (a) the first priority and concern of all in the coal or other mining industry must be the health and safety of its most precious resource—the miner

1977 Mine Act

- (d) the existence of unsafe and unhealthful conditions and practices in the Nation's coal or other mines is a serious impediment to the future growth of the coal or other mining industry and cannot be tolerated

30 CFR 56.18002

- Thorough and complete Workplace Examinations are a requirement and an invaluable tool to assure a safe and healthy workplace. Mine operator's should diligently review the records of Workplace Examinations to ensure that hazards are being noted and that hazards are being corrected in a timely manner.

30 CFR 56.18002

- (a) A competent person designated by the operator shall examine each working place at least once each shift for conditions which may adversely affect safety or health. The operator shall promptly initiate appropriate action to correct such conditions.

Program Policy Manual

- Conditions that may present an imminent danger which are noted by the person conducting the examination shall be brought to the immediate attention of the operator who shall withdraw all persons from the area affected (except persons referred to in section 104(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977) until the danger is abated.

Purpose

- To identify hazardous conditions and eliminate, mitigate or correct hazardous conditions in a timely manner

Hazardous Conditions

- Hazard: A source of danger
- Conditions: The factors or circumstances that affect the situation somebody is living or working in.
- Hazardous Conditions= Dangerous Conditions

WORKING PLACE

- The phrase "working place" is defined in 30 CFR §§ 56/57.2 as: "any place in or about a mine where work is being performed." As used in the standard, the phrase applies to those locations at a mine site where persons work during a shift in the mining or milling processes. (Including maintenance and repair activities)

COMPETENT PERSON

- A "competent person," according to §§ 56/57.2, is "a person having abilities and experience that fully qualify him to perform the duty to which he is assigned." Any person who, in the judgment of the operator, is fully qualified to perform the assigned task. May or may not be a person associated with mine management.

EXAMPLES

- Roadways
- Dump points
- Ramps
- Screens/Crushers/Conveyors
- Control towers/MCC/Scale house
- Shops
- Highwalls
- Any areas of the mine where men are required to work or travel

ROADWAYS

- [**MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.9300**](#)
- Elevated roadways and ramps, where the possibility exists of overturning mobile equipment, must have berms to at least mid-axle height of the largest equipment that travels on that roadway. (MSHA recommends three times the mid-axle height where possible)
- [**MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.9313**](#)
- [**MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.9315**](#)
- Proper roadway maintenance and dust control should be part of a workplace exam program

Example of a well
maintained roadway-smooth,
wide and well compacted



Example of a roadway with inadequate berms



Berms must be constructed and maintained to control the type of mobile equipment used
On the minesite



DUMP POINTS

- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.9301](#)
- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.9303](#)
- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.9304](#)
- Dumpsites shall be inspected prior to work and as ground conditions change. If there is any indication that the edge is unstable, loads should be dumped a safe distance away from the edge

Dumpsites should be examined frequently as mining conditions change



RAMPS

- **30 CFR § 56.9303**
- **Construction of ramps and dumping facilities.**
- Ramps and dumping facilities shall be designed and constructed of materials capable of supporting the loads to which they will be subjected. The ramps and dumping facilities shall provide width, clearance, and headroom to safely accommodate the mobile equipment using the facilities.

Example of a ramp
without proper berms
maintained at mid-
axle height



Berms and over travel must be designed for the type and size of equipment in use at the mine site



SCREENS/CRUSHERS CONVEYORS

- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.14107](#)
- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.11001](#)
- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.11002](#)
- Inadequate or missing guards, safe access, damaged or missing handrails are typical hazards not being recognized during workplace examinations

Guard for the tail pulley is not installed and secured

Hole in the guard for greasing may present an additional hazard





Missing guard

**Guard must be replaced
prior to start-up**



09/16/2014

Color coded guards make an examination easy



A photograph of a metal staircase with a damaged handrail. The staircase is made of dark metal beams and wooden treads. The handrail is a thick metal pipe that is bent and broken in several places. The staircase is situated on a ground covered with gravel and sand. In the background, there is a concrete structure, possibly a foundation or a wall. The overall scene suggests a hazardous work environment.

Damaged handrails

Safe Access not being provided- tripping hazards

SHOPS/CONTROL TOWERS/ MCC/SCALEHOUSES

- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.20003](#)
- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.12030](#)
- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.12032](#)
- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.14115](#)
- Housekeeping, obvious electrical hazards, open electrical boxes and tools not properly maintained are hazards that are commonly overlooked.

Poor housekeeping



Exposed electrical
conductors



Obvious
electrical
hazard



09/16/2014

Improperly adjusted
tool rest



HIGHWALLS

- [**MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.3401**](#)
- PPM The mine operator must designate the persons experienced in ground control who will examine and test the ground. These persons may be supervisors or miners.
- [**MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 56.3200**](#)
- PPM This standard prohibits work or travel, other than corrective work, in areas where hazardous ground conditions exist. Posting of a warning against entry is required until corrective work is completed if workers could enter the area inadvertently.



Frequent examinations
alert mine management
to changing conditions

08.26.2009



Severely under-cut highwall

09/16/2014

Deteriorating conditions may not
be apparent from below



Weather, lack of frequent examinations can cause dangerous conditions





These conditions were present prior to installation of the electrical substation

Example of
conditions that
should have been
apparent
with frequent
examinations



RECORDKEEPING

- 30 CFR Part 56.18002(b) A record that such examinations were conducted shall be kept by the operator for a period of one year, and shall be made available for review by the Secretary or his authorized representative.
- (c) In addition, conditions that may present an imminent danger which are noted by the person conducting the examination shall be brought to the immediate attention of the operator who shall withdraw all persons from the area affected (except persons referred to in section 104(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977) until the danger is abated.

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- Standards 56/57.18002(b) require operators to keep records of working place examinations. These records must include: (1) the date the examination was made; (2) the examiner's name; and (3) the working places examined. MSHA intends to allow operators considerable flexibility in complying with this provision in order to minimize the paperwork burden. Records of examinations may be entered on computer data bases or documents already in use, such as production sheets, logs, charts, time cards, or other format that is more convenient for mine operators. **MSHA will no longer accept an alternative to the 12 month retention period. Program Policy Letter P14-IV-01 Effective March 25, 2014.**

WORK PLACE EXAMINATION RECORD
WEEK ENDING DATE

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Hopper / Dump							
Walkways							
Steps and Ladders							
Elevated Walkways and Handrails							
Guards							
Conveyor Rollers							
Structural Damage							
Electrical Installation / Lock Out Procedures							
Oxygen / Acetylene / Welding							
Flammable Material Storage							
Warning Signs / Alarms / Barricades							
Haul Roads							
Traffic Signs							
Berms							
Ponds							
Dump Sites							
Highwalls							
Stockpiles							
Clean-up							
Personal Protective Equipment							
Fall Protection							
Fire Extinguishers							
First Aid Supplies							
Communications							
Emergency Numbers							
Housekeeping							
Examiner Initial							

Sample Form

NOTES:

WORK PLACE EXAMINATION RECORD

Date

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	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Highwalls							
Stockpiles							
Clean-up							
Personal Protective Equipment							
Fall Protection							
Fire Extinguishers							
First Aid Supplies							
Communications							
Emergency Numbers							
Housekeeping							
Examiner Initial							

Areas Examined

Who conducted the exam

What was done to correct the conditions

NOTES:

WORK PLACE AND EQUIPMENT EXAMINATION

DATE: _____

EQUIPMENT INSPECTION															
						LOADER # 1				LOADER # 2					
ITEM	OK	DESCRIBE PROBLEM	ITEM	OK	DESCRIBE PROBLEM	ITEM	OK	NOT	NA	ITEM	OK	NOT	NA		
PRIMARY			SECONDARY			Lights				Lights					
Hopper			Crushers			Mirrors				Mirrors					
Walkways			Crusher Drives			Backup Alarm				Backup Alarm					
Conveyor Guard			Walkways			Windows				Windows					
Crusher			Conveyor Guards			Tires				Tires					
Drive Belts			Screens			Fire Ext.				Fire Ext.					
Conveyors			Screen Guards			Brakes				Brakes					
Screens			Bins			Clutch				Clutch					
Conveyor Rollers			Electrical Boxes			Horn				Horn					
Screen Drives			Ladders / Steps			Wipers				Wipers					
Screen Guards						Park Brakes				Park Brakes					
Electrical Boxes						Steering				Steering					
Safety Lines			GROUNDS			Seat Belts				Seat Belts					
Ladders			Haul Roads			Oil Pressure				Oil Pressure					
Steps			Traffic Signs			Ammeter				Ammeter					
Handrails			Berms			Transmission				Transmission					
Fire Extinguishers			Ponds			Cooling System				Cooling System					
First Aid Supplies			Dump Sites			Hydraulic Fluid				Hydraulic Fluid					
Emergency Numbers			Highwalls			ROPS / POPS				ROPS / POPS					
Communications			Stockpiles			Housekeeping				Housekeeping					
			Clean-up			Access				Access					

Sample form with Mobile Equipment Pre-op form

If more space is required, use reverse side.

SIGNATURE: _____

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- Evidence that a previous shift examination was not conducted or that prompt corrective action was not taken will result in a citation for violation of §§ 56/57.18002(a) or (c). This evidence may include information which demonstrates that safety or health hazards existed prior to the working shift in which they were found.

Independent Contractors

- [MSHA - Code of Federal Regulations - 30 CFR 45.1](#)
- Historically nearly a third of all fatalities are independent contractors
- Since 2009 out of 112 fatalities in Metal/Nonmetal, 30 were contractors 27%

Program Policy Manual

- MSHA's policy is to issue citations and, where appropriate, orders to independent contractors for violations of applicable provisions of the Act, standards or regulations. This policy is based on the Mine Act's definition of an "operator," which includes "independent contractors performing services or construction" at mines.

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- Enforcement action against a production-operator for a violation(s) involving an independent contractor is normally appropriate in any of the following situations:
(1) when the production-operator has contributed by either an act or by an omission to the occurrence of a violation in the course of an independent contractor's work;

Program Policy Manual

- (2) when the production-operator has contributed by either an act or omission to the continued existence of a violation committed by an independent contractor; (3) when the production-operator's miners are exposed to the hazard; or (4) when the production-operator has control over the condition that needs abatement.

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- While MSHA recognizes “overlapping compliance responsibilities” (dual citations issued, when appropriate), the mine operator remains primarily responsible to assure compliance of all mandatory standards including 56/57.18002

Workplace Examinations

- 30 CFR Part 56/57/18002 is a requirement, not a choice. The only choice is how complete and thorough an examination is done and how diligent the mine operator is correcting hazardous conditions. Examinations should be conducted prior to commencing work duties to assure miners will not be exposed to hazardous conditions.

Questions?