

*Title 36
Legislative Rules
Board of Coal Mine Health & Safety*

~~WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS~~

~~DEPARTMENT OF MINES~~

~~CHAPTER 22-4~~

SERIES 25 / 14

~~(1982)~~

SUBJECT: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN MINES; REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS

~~TYPE OF RULE: LEGISLATIVE~~

Section 1. General

1.1 Scope - 544c

1.01 Authority - These rules and regulations are issued under authority of Chapter ~~22~~²², Article ~~2A~~⁴, Section 4 of the Code. *Filing Date*

1.02 Effective Date - These rules and regulations were promulgated on the 6th day of January, 1982, and become effective on the 15th day of February, 1982.

Section 2. Effect of Regulations

2.01 These rules and regulations shall have the effect of law and violations shall be deemed a violation of law and so cited with the same effect as law. All provisions of Article ~~1~~^{1A}, Chapter ~~22~~^{22A} of the Code relative to the enforcement of these rules and regulations.

Section 3. Definitions

All terms used in these rules and regulations, not defined herein, shall have the meanings set forth in Section 1, Article ~~1~~^{1A}, Chapter ~~22~~^{22A} of the Code.

Section 4. Electric Equipment in Mines

(a) All examinations, as required in the paragraphs below, shall be made at

a point not less than eight (8) inches from the roof, face and ribs.

(b) In all mines, electric haulage locomotives operated from trolley wire and all other non-permissible electrical equipment or devices which may ignite gas shall not be used in return air, unless permission is granted by the Director of the Department of Mines for a specified area. Permissible electrical equipment may be used in return airways provided: (a) The mine operator gives notice to the Inspector-at-Large or the District Mine Inspector in the division in which the mine is located, when such work is performed in return airways at any point exceeding 400 feet outby the last open crosscut; (b) the work area is preshift examined in accordance with Chapter ^{22A}~~22~~, Article ²~~2~~, Section ²⁰~~21~~ of the West Virginia Code; (c) the mine foreman or assistant mine foreman examines the working area in the return airway in which miners will be working at the beginning of each shift before any equipment is energized; (d) the working area is examined at least every two (2) hours during a working shift for hazards, by a certified mine foreman or assistant mine foreman; (e) methane gas examinations are made at frequent intervals as work progresses, but not to exceed 20 minutes; (f) the electrical equipment is examined at least once each shift for permissible deficiencies; (g) no temporary splices are in the trailing cables of the equipment being used; and (h) the work area is provided with two portable fire extinguishers. For the purpose of this provision, return air shall mean a volume of air that has passed through and ventilated all the working places in a mine section.

(c) No person shall be placed in charge of a coal-cutting machine in any mine who is not a qualified person, capable of determining the safety of the roof and sides of the working places and of detecting the presence of explosive gas, unless they are accompanied by a certified or qualified person who has passed such examination.

(d) In any mine no machine shall be brought in by the last breakthrough next to the working face until the machine man shall have made an inspection for gas in the place where the machine is to work. If explosive gas in excess of one percent is found in the place, the machine shall not be taken in until the danger is removed.

(e) In working places a safety lamp, or other suitable approved apparatus for the detection of explosive gas, shall be provided for use with each mining machine when working, and, should any indication of explosive gas in excess of one percent appear on the flame of the safety lamp, or on other apparatus used for the detection of explosive gas, the person in charge shall immediately stop the machine, cut off the current at the nearest switch and report the condition to the mine foreman or supervisor. The machine shall not again be started in such place until the condition found has been corrected and been pronounced safe by a certified person.

(f) No electric equipment shall be operated in a mine for a longer period than twenty minutes without an examination as above described being made for gas; and if gas is found in excess of one percent, the current shall at once be switched off the machine, and the trailing cable shall forthwith be disconnected from the power supply until the place is pronounced safe by a certified person.

(g) Machine runners and helpers shall use care while operating mining machines. No person except those persons necessary shall remain near the machine while it is in operation. They shall examine the roof of the working place to see that it is safe before starting to operate the machine. They shall not move the machine while the cutter chain is in motion.