



State of West Virginia

Department of Mines

Charleston 25305

WALTER N. MILLER
Director

TO: All Persons Interested in Rules and Regulations Constructed by the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety

FROM: Mark A. Scott, Administrator *MAS*

RE: Regulations Governing Coupling and Uncoupling of Mine Cars

DATE: June 1, 1984

ACTION: Final rule.

AUTHORITY:

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF
A. JAMES TAANCHIN
SECRETARY OF STATE
THIS DATE 6-1-84
Adminis: Law Division

These regulations are promulgated in accordance with Chapter 22, Article 2A, Section 4 of the West Virginia Code. These regulations are also promulgated in accordance with the decision of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in UMWA v. Scott, et al., which held that regulations issued by the Board in response to mining fatalities and injuries are not subject to the public review and comment provisions of Code 22-2A-4.

SUMMARY:

The Board has found that a fatal accident occurred in 1984 at the surface rotary dump of an underground mine. The Department of Mines determined that the victim was caught between a mine car and the side of the rotary dump when he attempted to uncouple the mine cars from the wrong side using a metal hook. The uncoupling was being done from the loadside of the rotary dump rather than from the empty side where it is normally done.

The Board determined that existing state laws and regulations were inadequate to prevent similar occurrences, because no specific guidelines or safety requirements exist to insure that track haulage cars are coupled and uncoupled without going between the cars.

Therefore, the Board has issued the following regulation to address this hazard. The regulation does the following:

Memo:

Regulations Governing Coupling and Uncoupling of Mine Cars

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1. Requires automatic couplers or similar devices on all track haulage cars.
2. Specifies how track haulage cars are to be coupled and uncoupled.
3. Prohibits persons from crossing moving mine cars.

POSTING AND REVIEW OF THIS REGULATION:

In accordance with WV Administrative Regulation Series 30 (amended 1983), each operator shall:

1. Post the regulation for thirty(30) days, immediately upon receipt.
2. Review the regulation with all persons acting in the capacity of underground mine foreman and assistant mine foreman, during the posting period.
3. Review the regulation with all persons assigned to work underground, during the week following the review with the mine foremen and assistant mine foremen.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Questions and requests for copies of this regulation should be addressed to:

Mark A. Scott, Administrator
Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety
West Virginia Department of Mines
Room E-153, State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 348-3937

MAS/dao

Attachment

WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

CHAPTER 22-4

SERIES 44

(1984)

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF
A. JAMES MANCHIN
SECRETARY OF STATE

THIS DATE 6/1/84
Administrative Law Division

SUBJECT: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING COUPLING AND UNCOUPLING OF
MINE CARS

PROMULGATED
REGULATION

FINAL
REGULATION

I N D E X

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING COUPLING AND UNCOUPLING OF MINE CARS

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WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

CHAPTER 22-4

Series 44

(1984)

SUBJECT: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING COUPLING AND UNCOUPLING OF MINE CARS

Section 1. General

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

1.02 Effective Date - These rules and regulations were promulgated on the 25th day of May, 1984, and become effective on the 1st day of July, 1984.

1.03 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, Chapter 22 of the Code relative to enforcement are applicable to the enforcement of these rules and regulations.

Section 2. Definitions

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

Section 3. Coupling and Uncoupling of Mine Cars

3.01 All track haulage cars which are regularly coupled and uncoupled shall be equipped with automatic couplers or other device approved by the Director which provides an equal or greater level of safety, which couple or uncouple without the necessity of persons going between the ends of such cars.

3.02 Mine cars shall be coupled or uncoupled in such a manner that will not require standing between the ends of such cars while coupling or uncoupling.

3.03 Persons shall not cross between moving mine cars.

- a. Whenever a cavity has been created, or it is assumed that a void has been created, no person or equipment shall be permitted on the stockpile in the feeder area.
- b. The operator shall establish rules for the safe procedures for breaking through cavities and for marking the feeder areas on the surface. A copy of the rules shall be submitted to the Director of the Department of Mines for approval. A copy of the approved rules shall be posted at the mine site, and all persons to perform such work shall be instructed in these procedures.
- c. Telephone or equivalent two-way communications shall be established between equipment operators working on stockpiles and those persons who are operating conveyors, feeder, and hoppers at storage piles (where more than one person performs these duties), in order to keep such equipment operators advised of the possibility of bridged material over a cavity in the stockpile.

Section 6. Working Around High-Voltage Powerlines

6.01 Location of high-voltage powerlines. High-voltage powerlines located above surface work areas, driveways, haulageways, and railroad tracks shall be installed no less than 15 feet above ground.

6.02 Operation of equipment, minimum distance from high-voltage lines.

(1) Equipment or machinery operated on the surface of any coal mine shall not be operated within 10 feet of an overhead powerline unless the line is de-energized and visibly grounded at the point of work, or unless insulating barriers not part of or an attachment to the equipment have been erected to prevent physical contact with the lines. Where the voltage of overhead powerlines is 69,000 volts or more, the minimum clearance between the lines and part of the equipment or load shall be:

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A. JAMES MANCHIN
SECRETARY OF STATE

THIS DATE June 18, 1984
Administrative Law Division

Nominal powerline voltage (in 1,000 volts)	Minimum Distance (feet)
69 to 114	12
115 to 229	15
230 to 344	20
345 to 499	25
500 or more	35

(2) A person shall be designated to observe clearance of the equipment and give timely warning for all operations where it is difficult for the operator to maintain the desired clearance by visual means.

6.03 Movement of equipment; minimum distance from high voltage lines. When any part of any equipment operated on the surface of any coal mine is required to pass under or by any energized high-voltage powerline and the clearance between such equipment and powerline is less than that specified above, such powerlines shall be de-energized or other precautions shall be taken to prevent contact with the powerlines.

6.04 De-energization of powerlines. Any overhead wire shall be considered to be an energized line unless and until the person owning such line or electrical utility authorities verifies that it is not an energized line and it has been visibly grounded.