

**§ 57.22212**

at least 40 feet per minute. The velocity of air ventilating each face at a work place shall be at least 20 feet per minute.

**§ 57.22212 Air flow (I-C, II-A, and V-A mines).**

Air flow across each working face shall be sufficient to carry away any accumulation of methane, smoke, fumes, and dust.

**§ 57.22213 Air flow (III mines).**

The quantity of air coursed through the last open crosscut in pairs or sets of entries, or through other ventilation openings nearest the face, shall be at least 6,000 cubic feet per minute, or 9,000 cubic feet per minute in longwall and continuous miner sections. The quantity of air across each face at a work place shall be at least 2,000 cubic feet per minute.

**§ 57.22214 Changes in ventilation (I-A, II-A, III, and V-A mines).**

(a) Changes in ventilation which affect the main air current or any split thereof and which adversely affect the safety of persons in the mine shall be made only when the mine is idle.

(b) Only persons engaged in making such ventilation changes shall be permitted in the mine during changes.

(c) Power shall be deenergized in affected areas prior to making ventilation changes, except power to monitoring equipment determined by MSHA to be intrinsically safe under 30 CFR part 18. Power shall not be restored until the results of the change have been determined and a competent person has examined affected working places for methane.

**§ 57.22215 Separation of intake and return air (I-A, II-A, III, and V-A mines).**

Main intake and return air currents shall be coursed through separate mine openings and shall be separated throughout the mine, except—

(a) Where multiple shafts are used for ventilation and a single shaft contains a curtain wall or partition for separation of air currents. Such wall or partition shall be constructed of reinforced concrete or other noncombustible

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equivalent, and provided with pressure-relief devices.

(b) During development of openings to the surface—

(1) Ventilation tubing approved by MSHA in accordance with 30 CFR part 7 or previously issued a BC or VT acceptance number by the MSHA Approval and Certification Center may be used for separation of main air currents in the same opening. Flexible ventilation tubing shall not exceed 250 feet in length.

(2) Only development related to making a primary ventilation connection may be performed beyond 250 feet of the shaft.

[52 FR 24941, July 1, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 30508, July 20, 1989]

**§ 57.22216 Separation of intake and return air (I-C mines).**

The main intake and return air currents in single shafts shall be separated by ventilation tubing, curtain walls, or partitions. Ventilation tubing shall be constructed of noncombustible material. Curtain walls or partitions shall be constructed of reinforced concrete or other noncombustible equivalent, and provided with pressure-relief devices.

**§ 57.22217 Seals and stoppings (I-A, I-B, and I-C mines).**

All seals, and those stoppings that separate main intake from main return airways, shall be of substantial construction and constructed of noncombustible materials, except that stoppings constructed of brattice materials may be used in face areas.

**§ 57.22218 Seals and stoppings (III, V-A, and V-B mines).**

(a) All seals, and those stoppings that separate main intake from main return airways, shall be of substantial construction, except that stoppings constructed of brattice materials may be used in face areas.

(b) Exposed surfaces on the intake side of stoppings constructed of combustible materials or foam-type blocks shall be coated with at least one inch of construction plaster containing perlite and gypsum; at least one inch of expanded vermiculite, Portland cement and limestone; or other coatings with

equivalent fire resistance. Stoppings constructed to phenolic foam blocks at least 12 inches thick need not be coated for fire resistance. All foam-type blocks used for stopping construction shall be solid.

(c) Exposed surfaces on the fresh air side of seals constructed of combustible materials shall be coated with at least one inch of construction plaster containing perlite and gypsum; at least one inch of expanded vermiculite, Portland cement and limestone; or other coatings with equivalent fire resistance. Foam-type blocks shall not be used for seals.

**§ 57.22219 Seals and stoppings (II-A mines).**

(a) Exposed surfaces on the intake side of stoppings constructed of combustible materials, except brattice, shall be coated with at least one inch of construction plaster containing perlite and gypsum; at least one inch of expanded vermiculite, Portland cement and limestone; or other coatings with equivalent fire resistance.

(b) Seals shall be of substantial construction. Exposed surfaces on the fresh air side of seals constructed of combustible materials shall be coated with at least one inch of construction plaster containing perlite and gypsum; at least one inch of expanded vermiculite, Portland cement and limestone; or other coatings with equivalent fire resistance. Foam-type blocks shall not be used for seals.

**§ 57.22220 Air passing unsealed areas (I-A, II-A, III, and V-A mines).**

Air that has passed by or through unsealed abandoned or unsealed inactive areas and contains 0.25 percent or more methane shall—

- (a) Be coursed directly to a return airway;
- (b) Be tested daily for methane by a competent person; and
- (c) Not be used to ventilate work places.

**§ 57.22221 Overcast and undercast construction (I-A, II-A, III, and V-A mines).**

- Overcasts and undercasts shall be—
- (a) Of substantial construction;

(b)(1) Constructed of noncombustible materials; or

(2) Where constructed of combustible materials, the outside surfaces shall be coated with at least one inch of construction plaster containing perlite and gypsum; at least one inch of expanded vermiculite, Portland cement and limestone; or other coatings with equivalent fire resistance;

(c) Kept clear of obstructions.

**§ 57.22222 Ventilation materials (I-A, I-B, I-C, II-A, III, V-A, and V-B mines).**

Brattice cloth and ventilation tubing shall be approved by MSHA in accordance with 30 CFR part 7, or shall bear a BC or VT acceptance number issued by the MSHA Approval and Certification Center.

[54 FR 30508, July 20, 1989]

**§ 57.22223 Crosscuts before abandonment (III mines).**

A means of ventilating faces shall be provided before workings are abandoned in unsealed areas, unless crosscuts are provided within 30 feet of the face.

**§ 57.22224 Auxiliary equipment stations (I-A and III mines).**

Battery charging stations, compressor stations, pump stations, and transformer stations shall be installed in intake air at locations which are sufficiently ventilated to prevent the accumulation of methane.

**§ 57.22225 Auxiliary equipment stations (I-C mines).**

Battery charging stations, compressor stations, and electrical substations shall not be installed underground or within 50 feet of a mine opening.

**§ 57.22226 Testing for methane (IV mines).**

Tests for methane shall be conducted in the mine atmosphere by a competent person—

- (a) At least once each shift prior to starting work in each face and raise; and
- (b) Upon initial release of gas into the mine atmosphere from boreholes.