

From: Pergrem, Dwayne [dpergrem@PhelpsDodge.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2003 7:56 AM
To: 'comments@msha.gov'
Subject: Direct final rule: Seat Belts for Off-Road Work Machines

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5/1/03
MSHA/OSRV

The direct final rule MSHA has proposed references SAE J386 and SAE J1194 revisions as "technological advances". This is an error.

SAE J386 and SAE J1194 revisions are not advances in technology. Both fail to address the vastly improved technology that has been available in the automotive industry for 20 years - a combination of pelvic and upper torso restraint.

The agency should use as a direct final rule SAE J2292. This is a combination pelvic/upper torso (type 2) operator restraint system for off-road work machines.

Several major equipment manufacturers already offer this advanced system to their customers as an option.

The combined protection would:

Save more miners lives,

Be visible when being worn, and

Has been proven to be extremely effective in reducing injuries.

A historical comparison of off-road work machine fatality data in the MSHA database with autopsy cause of death will prove the advantage of SAE J2292.

Many of the deaths resulted from injuries consistent with steering wheel impact.

I hope you will consider this change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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