

Pre-test preparation is offered in the form of —

- The NIOSH Self-Study Syllabus which is made available through ALOSH and developed specifically for this purpose; and/or
- attendance at a NIOSH-sponsored Seminar on the Radiology of the Pneumoconioses.

The Syllabus is made available by mail in the United States on a first-come, first-served basis from ALOSH prior to scheduled testing. Additionally, the Syllabus may be used on-site by anyone interested in coming to Morgantown to study prior to taking the examination. The Syllabus can also be utilized at one of several other stationary locations across the country as well as internationally.

Seminars are usually held annually, in different locations throughout the United States.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about NIOSH B Reader certification, write or telephone —

**ALOSH/NIOSH
Examination Processing Branch
X-Ray Receiving Center
P.O. Box 4258
Morgantown, WV 26504
(304) 285-5724**

Delivering on the Nation's promise:
Safety and health at work for all people
Through research and prevention

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 97-104

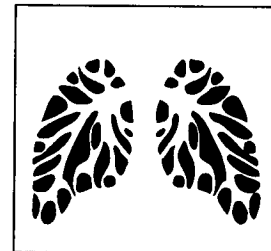


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



NIOSH

*TO
OR
NOT
TO* *B* . . .



A NIOSH
B READER

If you have chosen to read this brochure, you are probably curious about approval as a NIOSH B Reader.

THE B READER EXAMINATION

NIOSH B Reader approval is granted to physicians who demonstrate proficiency in the classification of chest x-rays for the pneumoconioses using the International Labour Office (ILO) Classification System.

Proficiency is evaluated via the NIOSH B Reader Certification Examination, which was developed in response to the mandates of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act. Since the examination was first administered in 1974, NIOSH has certified more than 1200 physicians. Currently, there are over 650 certified B Readers. Upon request, NIOSH will provide a list of all currently certified B Readers.

Examinations are offered monthly at the Appalachian Laboratory for Occupational Safety and Health (ALOSH) located in Morgantown, West Virginia. A passing score results in approval as a NIOSH B Reader. Each B Reader receives a certificate and is required to recertify at four-year intervals. Nearly 56% of NIOSH-certified B Readers renew certification for an additional term.

Regulations mandate that all physicians who participate in the examination and/or classify chest x-rays under the Act must utilize the ILO System and Standard Films. These Standard films are necessary when participating in the B Reader Examination or utilizing the NIOSH Self-Study Syllabus, and are an important resource at NIOSH-sponsored Seminars on the Radiology of the Pneumoconioses.

WHY?

- *Do you live in a coal mining area and expect to classify chest x-rays for the Coal Workers' X-Ray Surveillance Program as mandated by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977?*
- *Have you been asked to classify chest x-rays of asbestos-exposed workers as governed by the U.S. Department of Labor regulations?*
- *Are you involved in classifying chest x-rays for medical screening, surveillance, or compensation programs?*

PRE-EXAMINATION PREPARATION

NIOSH strongly recommends some pre-test preparation for examination participants to assure familiarity with the ILO Classification System and associated Roentgenographic Interpretation Form. Pre-test preparation is extremely important because anyone who fails the examination must wait one year before re-testing. The examination is difficult and consistently demonstrates a 50/50 pass/fail rate.