



AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN ALLIANCE
BETWEEN
THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
AND
GYPSUM ASSOCIATION

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the Gypsum Association recognize the value of establishing a collaborative relationship to foster safe and healthful aggregate operations in the United States. MSHA and the Gypsum Association hereby form an Alliance to use their collective expertise to help foster a culture of prevention by sharing best practices and technical knowledge.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Gypsum Association agree to establish an Alliance to advance safe and healthful working conditions for workers by providing Association members with technical assistance, education and training, sharing information and promoting the national dialogue on mine safety and health.

MSHA and the Gypsum Association will work together to achieve the following technical assistance goals:

- Conduct evaluations of mutually-agreed upon applied engineering topics to improve mine safety and health in Gypsum mines and facilities.
- Conduct analyses to identify hazards affecting the health and safety of the Alliance's miners.
- Analyzing historical data to evaluate the effectiveness of compliance and safety.
- Performing mine safety and health case studies to determine areas for improved safety.
- Using evaluations and case studies to set objectives and performance based goals.

MSHA and the Gypsum Association will work together to achieve the following education and training goals:

- Develop training and education program to reduce and prevent mine hazards.

MSHA and the Gypsum Association will communicate to the gypsum industry an outreach program to promote safety by:

- Disseminating information on mine safety and health at conferences, events, or through print and electronic media, including links from MSHA's and the Gypsum Association's Web sites.
- Speaking, exhibiting, or appearing at conferences, meetings or other events to proactively address mine safety and health issues within the industry.
- Develop best practices to effectively control the hazards identified by the conducted analysis.
- Sharing information on best practices and effective approaches, as jointly determined by MSHA and the Gypsum Association, with others in the mining industry through individual or joint outreach programs and promoting the implementation of these practices.
- Working cooperatively with other mining associations to help them improve the health and safety working conditions for their members' employees.

MSHA and the Gypsum Association will work together in promoting the national dialogue on mine safety and health by:

- Raising awareness of mine safety and health and demonstrating their own commitment to mine safety and health whenever MSHA or the Gypsum Association leaders address safety-oriented groups.
- Convening or participating in forums, round table discussions, or stakeholder meetings on opportunities to help forge innovative solutions to challenging safety and health issues in mines or to provide input on such issues.
- Publicizing the results of mine safety and health case studies through print or electronic media, promotion at conferences, or other means of outreach.

An implementation team made up of representatives of both organizations will meet to develop a plan of action, determine working procedures, and identify the roles and responsibilities of the participants. In addition, the group will meet at least quarterly to track and share information and activities and results in achieving the goals of the Alliance.

The Gypsum Association is authorized to use the MSHA Alliance logo on documents, Web pages, or other products relating to or created under the Alliance for as long as the Alliance remains in effect and according to MSHA's "Guidance on the Use of the Alliance Logo." The logo must not be used for fundraising or lobbying efforts or to imply that MSHA endorses a particular entity or its actions or products. Before the Alliance logo may be used, MSHA and the Gypsum Association must approve all materials and products developed under this Alliance.

MSHA and the Gypsum Association will provide all services, products, and resources relating to or created under this Alliance without reimbursement from the other party.

This agreement will remain in effect for five years or until terminated by either signatory. This agreement may be terminated by any signatory for any reason at any time, provided a 30 day written notice of termination is provided. This agreement may be modified at any time with the concurrence of both signatories.

David G. Dye
Acting Assistant Secretary
Mine Safety and Health

Date

Michael A. Gardner
Executive Director/CEO
Gypsum Association

Date