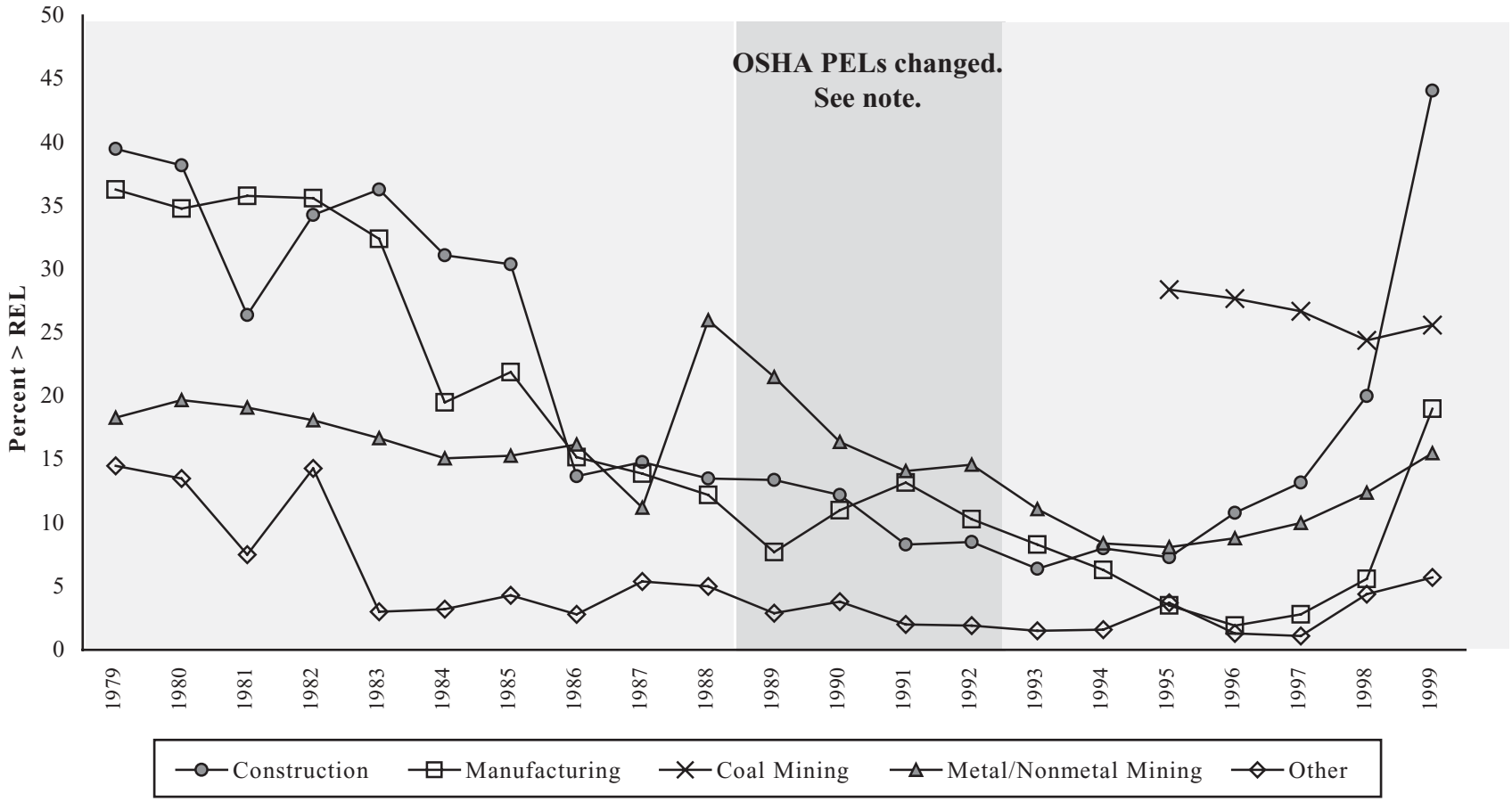


Figure 6-5. Pneumoconiotic agents: Percent of exposures exceeding the NIOSH recommended exposure limits by major industry division, MSHA inspector and mine operator and OSHA samples, 1979-1999



REL - recommended exposure limit

NOTE: From March 1, 1989 to March 22, 1993, the OSHA PELs in force differed from those employed before and after those dates. The NIOSH REL for respirable coal mine dust of 1.0 mg/m³ was adopted in September 1995. The MSHA respirable coal mine quartz exposure data and the NIOSH REL for respirable quartz cannot be compared to each other because they are based on different sampling criteria. See appendices for source description, methods, and agents.

SOURCE: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) metal/nonmetal mine and coal mine inspector and mine operator dust and quartz data. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Integrated Management Information System.