

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Fee Adjustments for Testing, Evaluation, and Approval of Mining Products

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice of fee adjustments.

SUMMARY: This notice revises our (MSHA Approval and Certification Center (A&CC)) user fees. Fees compensate us for the costs that we incur for testing, evaluating, and approving certain products for use in underground mines. We based the year 2000 fees on our actual expenses for fiscal year 1999. The fees reflect changes both in our approval processing operations and in our costs to process approval actions.

DATES: These fee schedules are effective from January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven J. Luzik, Chief, Approval and Certification Center, 304-547-2029 or 304-547-0400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On May 8, 1987 (52 FR 17506), pursuant to 30 U.S.C. 957, we published a final rule, 30 CFR Part 5—Fees for Testing, Evaluation, and Approval of Mining Products. The rule established specific procedures for calculating, administering, and revising user fees. We have revised our fee schedule for the year 2000 in accordance with the procedures of that rule and include this new fee schedule below. For approval applications postmarked before January 1, 2000, we will continue to calculate fees under the previous (1999) fee schedule, published on December 18, 1998.

Fee Computation

In general, we computed the year 2000 fees based on fiscal year 1999 data. We calculated a weighted-average, direct cost for all the services that we provided during fiscal year 1999 in the

processing of requests for testing, evaluation, and approval of certain products for use in underground mines. From this cost, we calculated a single hourly rate to apply uniformly across all of the product approval categories during the year 2000.

Elimination of Flat Rates

Under the provisions of 30 CFR Part 5, three approval areas have been converted from a flat rate to an hourly rate: Statement of Test and Evaluation, Statement of Test and Evaluation Extension, and Mine Wide Monitoring System Barrier Classification. The conversion of these last three approval areas results in a single hourly rate being uniformly applied regardless of product type. See the schedule for the appropriate hourly rate.

Dated: December 22, 1999.

Rebecca J. Smith,
Deputy Director, Office of Standards, Regulations and Variances.

FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2000

[Based on FY 1999 data]

Action title	Hourly rate
Fees for Testing, Evaluation, and Approval of all Mining Products ¹ ..	\$61
Retesting for Approval as a Result of Post-Approval Product Audit ²

30 CFR Part 15—Explosives Testing

Permissibility Tests for Explosives:	
Weigh-in	\$462
Physical Exam: First size	325
Chemical Analysis	1,977
Air Gap—Minimum Product Firing	
Temperature	460
Air Gap—Room Temperature	352
Pendulum Friction Test	163
Detonation Rate	352
Gallery Test 7	7,436
Gallery Test 8	5,533
Toxic Gases (Large Chamber)	805
Permissibility Tests for Sheathed Explosives:	
Physical Examination	128
Chemical Analysis	1,044
Gallery Test 9	1,944
Gallery Test 10	1,944
Gallery Test 11	1,944

FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2000—Continued

[Based on FY 1999 data]

Action title	Hourly rate
Gallery Test 12	1,944
Drop Test	648
Temperature Effects/Detonation ...	672
Toxic Gases	580

¹ Full approval fee consists of evaluation cost plus applicable test costs.

² Fee based upon the approval schedule in effect at the time of retest.

Note: When the nature of the product requires that we test and evaluate it at a location other than our premises, you must reimburse us for the traveling, subsistence, and incidental expenses of our representative in accordance with standardized government travel regulations. This reimbursement is in addition to the fees charged for evaluation and testing.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

Proposed Extension of Information Collection Request Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations; Notice of Special Enrollment Rights, Health Insurance Portability for Group Health Plans

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA 95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed.