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SUBJECT: Hard Hats - Revised

Who needs this information?

Mine operators, miners' representatives, independent contractors, Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) enforcement personnel, Technical Support personnel, and other interested parties should have this information.

What is the purpose of this Program Information Bulletin?

This Program Information Bulletin (PIB) informs the mining industry of potential hazards associated with hard hats that have been modified by cutting and re-gluing the shell. Such modifications may not provide miners with adequate safety protection.

Information

Hard hats are intended to provide miners with protection from falling objects. Hard hats are tested by manufacturers to ensure that the hard hat can adequately absorb impacts that would otherwise cause head or neck injury, and that it can adequately

prevent penetration of sharp objects. Injuries and fatalities have occurred, however, where hard hats have been modified by cutting, sawing, or otherwise reshaping or

re-gluing the shell. Such modifications do not provide miners with adequate safety protection. Additionally, hard hats with visible splits or cracks do not provide miners with adequate safety protection. Therefore, mine operators should ensure that hard hats are not modified and that they are properly maintained.

What is the background for this PIB?

Recently, MSHA became aware of miners using hard hats that have been cut apart and glued back together in order to obtain a lower profile. These modified hard hats do not provide miners with adequate safety protection, and may result in needless injuries or fatalities.

What is MSHA's authority for this PIB?

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended, 30 U.S.C. § 801 et. seq.; 30 C.F.R. §§ 56/57.15002, Hard Hats; 75.1720(d) and 77.1710(d), Protective Clothing Requirements.

Where Is this PIB on the Internet?

This PIB may be viewed on the World Wide Web by accessing MSHA's home page at (www.msha.gov), choosing "Compliance Info" and "Program Information Bulletins."

Who are the MSHA contact persons for this PIB?

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Who will receive this PIB?

MSHA Program Policy Manual Holders
Coal Mine Operators
Metal and Nonmetal Mine Operators
Miners' Representatives
Independent Contractors
Special Interest Groups