

Bulldozer Operator



Health Hazard Information Card HH-44

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Black lung and silicosis are two disabling and sometimes fatal lung diseases caused by overexposure to respirable coal mine dust. Bulldozers present unique problems in controlling exposure to respirable dust due to the variety of functions they perform. Samples collected from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, on bulldozers indicate:



Bulldozers	Valid Samples Collected	Percent Greater than the Standard	Average Percent Quartz*
Operator Samples	414	10.6	11.6
MSHA Samples	1,509	1.2	17.8
All Samples	1,923	3.2	17.4

*On entities with reduced standards.

Bulldozer operators who are exposed to respirable coal mine dust containing greater than 5% quartz are likely overexposed to quartz and are at a greater risk of developing lung disease. **At any given time approximately 80% of all bulldozers classified as a Designated Work Position (DWP) are on a reduced standard due to quartz.**

MSHA has developed this guide to assist miners in using all available tools to **Control the Dust and Prevent Black Lung.**

You should always:

- ✓ Ensure that all dust controls on a bulldozer are in place and operating properly, such as: environmental cabs, heating and air conditioning systems, etc.
- ✓ Examine and maintain window and door glass and seals.
- ✓ Plug or caulk unused holes and access ports from the interior of the cab to the machines' exterior.
- ✓ Clean or replace air conditioning and air handling/pressurization filters at least as often as the manufacturers' recommendations.
- ✓ Wet down dusty haul roads.
- ✓ Clean boots before entering the operators' cab to lower the amount of dust deposited in the cab of the bulldozer.
- ✓ Select and use properly fitted respirators when concentrations exceed the applicable respirable dust standard.

You should never:

- ❖ Operate a bulldozer with inoperable, defective, or missing dust controls. Also, never operate the bulldozer with environmental cab doors or windows open.
- ❖ Use compressed air or dry sweeping to clean environmental cabs.

If you have questions about coal mine health matters, please contact your local MSHA office or see the MSHA website at www.msha.gov.