

TITLE: Standard Application Procedure for the Acceptance of Lifelines for Underground Coal Mines

1.0 PURPOSE

This document establishes a Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Standard Application Procedure (SAP) for the Acceptance of Non-steel Lifelines under 30CFR, Part 18.65.

2.0 SCOPE

This procedure applies to all applications for Acceptance of Non-steel Lifelines under 30CFR, Part 18.65. The use of this procedure is voluntary.

3.0 REFERENCES

- 3.1. Approval and Certification Center (A&CC) Cancellation Policy APOL 1009.
- 3.2. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 30 (30CFR) Part 18.65.
- 3.3. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 30 (30CFR) Part 75.380
- 3.4. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 30 (30CFR) Part 75.381

4.0 DEFINITIONS

- 4.1. Applicant – An individual or organization that manufactures or controls the assembly of a product and that applies to MSHA for approval of that product.
- 4.2. Company assigned application code number – a unique six digit number assigned by the applicant that is used for the tracking of the application paperwork.
- 4.3. Directional Indicators (or directional marking devices) – Any device installed on a lifeline used to provide direction via tactile feedback.
- 4.3. Extension of Approval – A modification to an existing approval requiring MSHA to extend the original approval to incorporate the changes.
- 4.4. Lifeline – A durable, ropelike or rigid flame-resistant material that provides a tactile feedback.
- 4.5. Non-steel Lifeline – – Lifelines that do not use steel for its main structure and strength integrity.

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- 4.6. Preauthorization notice – A statement by the applicant authorizing MSHA to expend a stated amount of money in evaluating the applicant's product prior to the preparation and issuance of the MSHA fee estimate.

5.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 5.1. It is recommended that applicants contact the A&CC to discuss approval and testing requirements prior to submitting an application.
- 5.2. An application requesting an approval or extension of approval must be sent to the following address:

Chief
Approval and Certification Center
Mine Safety and Health Administration
RR 1, Box 251, Industrial Park Road
Triadelphia, WV 26059

- 5.3. Applicant may use the attached application form (Appendix 1) to insure all the appropriate information is provided to MSHA. **The following information is required:**
- 5.3.1. The applicants complete mailing address, telephone and FAX numbers.
- 5.3.2. The name of the applicant's representative responsible for answering any questions regarding the application.
- 5.3.3. Company assigned application number. It must be all numeric, six digits or less.
- 5.3.4. Description of the product. Provide a trade name/style/code.
- 5.3.5. Weight or weave density of the product.
- 5.3.6. Each ingredient must be specified by its chemical or generic name, along with its percentage (weight) and tolerance. Organic ingredients should be named according to the current rules of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Inorganic ingredients should be named according to the Chemical Abstract of the American Chemical Society. A prepolymer formulation which has been registered with MSHA may be identified by furnishing the MSHA assigned ID number. However, each additional ingredient the manufacturer adds to the registered formulation

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(ID number) must be identified by chemical or generic name, along with its percentage (weight) and tolerance.

5.3.7. Test Specimens

A quantity of four (4) test specimens must be provided, six (6) inches long. If the lifeline material varies by weight (oz. /yd.), four of the lightest weight, and four of the heaviest weight will be tested. The approval then will include all weights in between. Braided type lifeline will be tested in its original construction in six (6) inch lengths. Rigid lifeline or solid parts of a lifeline will be tested in minimum and maximum thicknesses.

Directional indicators will not be subject to the requirements of this procedure and therefore 30CFR Part 18.65, unless they provide the structural integrity and continuity of the lifeline.

MSHA reserves the right to modify testing as required to provide equivalent testing on unusual constructions.

5.3.8. The applicant shall provide information on the toxicity of the finished product. The product in its final form is to present no toxic hazard under "normal use" conditions, and the applicant must state such in the application.

5.3.9. An application signed by an authorized representative of the company.

5.4. Quality Assurance

The following information pertaining to the manufacturer's quality assurance procedures must be provided:

- a. Procurement procedures for the components or ingredients of the product.
- b. Manufacturing practices to maintain the formulation.
- c. Procedures for record keeping, such as test results.
- d. Critical characteristics that will be flame resistant or tested or inspected to ensure that the finished product meets the flame resistant test requirements.

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5.5. Extensions of Approval

Any change in the approved product from the documentation on file at MSHA that affects the technical requirements must be submitted to MSHA for approval prior to implementing the change. An extension of approval application is administered in the same manner as the original approval request.

5.6. Notification of Discrepancy

The applicant will be notified of any deficiencies/corrections that need to be corrected. Deficiencies/corrections will be resolved in accordance with the A&CC's Cancellation Policy (APOL 1009).

5.7. Fees

5.7.1. Upon receipt of a complete application, an estimate for the cost of processing the application (cap letter), including testing will be sent to the applicant.

5.7.2. The applicant may "preauthorize" the estimate in order to eliminate the "cap" letter. Check with MSHA personnel for the present amount.

5.8. Application Processing

5.8.1. Upon receipt of the company agreement to the cap estimate (or preauthorization), MSHA will place the application in queue based upon date received, to begin the evaluation of the application, including testing.

5.8.2. After confirming that all the required information listed in Section 5.3 has been received, and upon successful testing of the product(s) and receipt of laboratory test data report(s) with certifications, MSHA will prepare an approval letter for the applicant.

5.9. Labeling

An approved product must be permanently and legibly labeled with the approval designation as directed by MSHA. If the MSHA approval designation cannot be marked on the product, it may be permanently and legibly marked with the assigned MSHA approval number on all shipping spools and/or containers. MSHA reserves the right to permit alternate forms of labeling.

5.10. Test Failure

If a product should fail the test, one retest will be allowed based on a written request by the applicant. The request for retest must provide the justification for such action, such as improvement in product information and amendment of original application. Based upon the justification and at MSHA's discretion, the retest may consist of any sizes that were originally tested; otherwise, only the specific size that passed the test will be issued an approval.

APPENDIX I

Lifeline Acceptance Application Form

Date _____

1. Company Name _____
Address _____
Phone No. (Area Code) _____ Fax No. _____
Company Representative _____

2. Company Assigned Application No. _____

3. Product Description _____
a. Trade Name _____
b. Style, Code No. _____
c. Weight _____

4. Formulation

Ingredient	% by Weight	Tolerance (± %)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. Samples - were test samples sent, indicate Yes or No.

6. Toxicity:
For all products a statement must be provided that “The product in its final form and under normal use does not present a toxicity hazard to miners.”

Signature of Company Official

7. A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is required for the final end product, if one has been prepared in accordance with 29 CFR 1200, or for the hazardous chemical components used to manufacture the final end product.
8. Attach quality assurance information.