
MSHA Increased Emphasis on Improved Implementation of Surveys at MNM Mines



Administrator for Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health

Neal H. Merrifield



Agenda

- Introductions
- Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health
- Deputy Assistant Secretary
- MSHA enforcement policies and procedures
- Presentations from Ash Grove Cement and US Silica
- Questions/Comments



Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health

Joseph A. Main



Deputy Assistant Secretary

Gregory R. Wagner, M.D.



30 CFR 56/57.5002

Exposure Monitoring

- Dust, gas, mist and fume surveys shall be conducted as frequently as necessary to determine the adequacy of control measures

Scope of 30 CFR 56/57.5002

Applicable to:

- All MNM operations
- Airborne contaminants:
 - Dust, gas, mist, and fume
- Does not apply to:
 - Radon
 - Diesel particulate matter
 - Noise



30 CFR 56/57.5002 Improved Implementation of Surveys

- Program Policy Letter was issued 10/22/2010
- <http://www.msha.gov/REGS/COMPLIAN/PPLMEN.HTM>
- Mine operators have the primary responsibility for protecting the health of miners
- Mine operators must demonstrate compliance rather than relying on enforcement interventions
- Emphasize:
 - Plan
 - Prevent
 - Protect



Policy

- During MSHA inspections, MSHA inspectors will be evaluating operator survey activities
- MSHA is providing additional information at the following website:
www.msha.gov/S&HINFO/ExposureGuidance/ExposureGuidance.asp



56/57.5002

- Overexposures to airborne contaminants are indicators of inadequate control measures
 - Type of surveys
 - Frequency of surveys

Are operators conducting surveys?

- **Quantitative** surveys – exposure sampling to determine whether exposure is below the TLV, or wipe samples
- **Qualitative** surveys
 - Site walk-through to evaluate control measures
 - Control technology inspection and maintenance (e.g., vehicle cabs, dust collectors, ventilation systems)
- Documentation (records)
- Visual inspection of area by inspector
- Interviews with management and employees

Adequacy of Surveys

- Type: quantitative versus qualitative
- Is exposure monitoring conducted in accordance with accepted analytical methods and techniques?
- Is the person conducting the survey properly trained?

Frequency of Surveys

- Sampling results approach the TLV
- Changes in mining operations (e.g. hazard or environmental agents)
- Changes in control equipment used to reduce exposures.
- Changes in work schedule (e.g. miners working longer shifts) or work procedures
- Routine or special maintenance on controls
- Miner complaints, illnesses, or disease

Future Steps

- Train inspectors
- Outreach to stakeholders
 - Provide assistance to small mines
 - Training
 - Technical assistance with a focus on small mines

Ash Grove Cement

Steve Minshall



U.S. Silica

John Ulizio



Questions Comments

