

Q&As on Phase-out of the CSE SR-100

1. **Q:** Which miners are required to wear/carry two CSE SR-100s according to PIB No. P12-09?

A: Pursuant to the requirements of 30 C.F.R. §§ 75.1714-4(a)(1) and (a)(2), all persons must be provided with an additional approved 1-hour SCSR. However, miners who wear/carry a CSE SR-100 and for whom additional SCSRs are stored at a distance an average miner can walk in 30 minutes along the normal travel routes in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-4(a)(2) must now wear/carry two CSE SR-100s or else be provided with another model/type of approved 1-hour SCSR. Additional SCSRs are still required to be stored along the travel routes in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-4(a)(2).

The "Emergency Mine Evacuation Final Rule Questions & Answers" dated May 3, 2007, provide guidance related to fixed work locations and outby personnel (<http://www.msha.gov/REGS/COMPLIAN/Guides/MineEvacETS/EmergencyMineEvacuation05032007.pdf>) on pages 11 and 12. A fixed work location is a working section, location where mechanized mining equipment is being installed or removed, or any other location or area in the mine where people normally work, and is limited to an area bounded by a distance that may be walked by the average miner within 15 minutes. Miners who normally walk or travel distances that are greater than may be walked by the average miner in 15 minutes do not have a fixed work location. Below are some examples related to wearing/carrying two CSR SR-100s:

Example 1: A weekly examiner wearing a CSE SR-100 takes 4 hours to complete the examination of a bleeder system. This miner does not have a fixed work location as he walks/travels a distance greater than may be walked by the average miner in 15 minutes and additional SCSRs are required to be stored along the normal travel route in accordance with § 75.1714-4(a)(2). This miner is now required to wear/carry two CSE SR-100s or else be provided with another model/type of approved 1-hour SCSR.

Example 2: A group of three outby miners, each of whom wear/carry a CSE SR-100, are installing cribs in a worked-out area and it takes 1-hour to walk to the work site. These miners do not have a fixed work location as they must walk a distance greater than may be walked by the average miner in 15 minutes and additional SCSRs are required to be stored along the normal travel route in accordance with § 75.1714-4(a)(2). These miners must wear/carry two CSE SR-100s or else be provided with another model/type of approved 1-hour SCSR.

Example 3: An outby miner working at a belt transfer point wears a CSE SR-100. An additional SCSR is stored at the transfer point so that the miner is provided with two SCSRs. The miner normally walks up to 10 minutes from the transfer point to check the belt drive and to perform general belt entry maintenance. This miner is considered to have a fixed work location and is only required to wear/carry one CSE SR-100. The miner must still be provided with an additional approved 1-hour SCSR stored at the work site.

The requirements related to providing additional SCSRs for every person on mantrips and mobile equipment used to enter or exit the mine in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-4(b) have not changed.

2. **Q:** If we have 5 more SCSRs in a cache than our ERP requires, do we have to replace these 5 if they are placed somewhere else in the mine?

A: No, you are only required to maintain any minimum specified in the ERP and to comply with 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-4(c)(1), which requires that each storage location contain at least one SCSR, which provides protection for a period of one hour or longer, for every person who will be inby that location.

3. **Q:** If we borrow SCSRs from outby caches for miners without a fixed work location, how long will we be given to restock the SCSRs in the outby caches?

A: SCSRs borrowed from an escapeway cache must be replaced as soon as possible if the cache does not contain at least one SCSR, which provides protection for a period of one hour or longer, for every person who will be inby that location as per 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-4(c)(1). Mine operators should act expeditiously and in good faith to replenish affected caches. If a mine operator has a sufficient supply of SCSRs available, then it is expected that any affected cache will be replenished without delay, or affected miners could be furnished with the required SCSR from inventory. If a mine operator does not have a sufficient supply of SCSRs available, then the operator is expected to order SCSRs without delay.

4. **Q:** Can we replace borrowed SCSRs from outby caches with SCSRs from different manufacturers before getting a plan approved?

A: Yes. However, if approved plans are affected by implementing the measures described in PIB No. P12-09, you will need to submit required revisions to the District Manager before May 27, 2012.

5. **Q:** Do we need to update the SCSR inventory when we replace the CSE SR-100 with another approved SCSR?

A: Yes, the SCSR inventory is required to be updated within the quarter under 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-8(a)(2).

6. **Q:** Should miners be trained before the mine replaces CSE SR-100 SCSRs with another model or type of approved 1-hour SCSR?

A: Yes, training is required to be provided to any person before he/she would be exposed to the potential use of any SCSR model or type that is new to the mine. At a minimum, the training described under 30 C.F.R. §§ 75.1504(b)(1) and 75.1504(b)(2) must be provided.

7. **Q:** Do we have to report the replacement of the CSE SR-100 as a problem under 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-8(b)?

A: No. However, as required by 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-8(b), a report to MSHA is required if any defect, performance problem, or malfunction is found during use of any approved SCSR. Such problems are also required to be reported if found during the annual testing required by the ERP.

8. **Q:** Can a mine transfer SR-100s to another mine operated by the same company?

A: Yes, as long as the measures described in PIB No. P12-09 are followed. Changes in the SCSR inventories for each mine must be updated in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-8(a)(2).

9. **Q:** Are the existing standards related to SCSRs changed by the phasing out of the CSE SR-100?

A: No, the existing standards related to SCSRs are unchanged.

10. **Q:** If miners wear an SCSR with a capacity of less than 1-hour, how many SR-100s would be required to be provided on a mantrip?

A: The requirements related to providing additional SCSRs for every person on mantrips and mobile equipment used to enter or exit the mine in accordance with 30 C.F.R. § 75.1714-4(b) have not changed. As stated on page 71443 of Vol. 71, No. 236, of the Federal Register dated December 8, 2006 <http://www.msha.gov/REGS/FEDREG/FINAL/2006finl/06-9608.pdf>: "If SCSRs with a capacity of less than one hour are worn by miners, the additional SCSR required by § 75.1714-4(b) may be stored along the escapeway at intervals

that are readily accessible to the miners.” A mantrip that is operated in an escapeway with SCSRs stored at readily accessible intervals must be provided with at least one approved 1-hour SCSR for each person using the mantrip. A mantrip that is operated in an entry that is not an escapeway must be provided with at least two approved 1-hour SCSRs for each person using the mantrip.