

Results of Operator Compliance Sampling CY2006 - CY2010¹

Calendar Year	Underground Mines					Surface Operations				
	Total			1.0 mg/m ³ or less		Total			1.0 mg/m ³ or less	
	Mines	DO Samples	Avg Conc	Samples	%	Mines	DWP Samples	Avg Conc	Samples	%
2006	587	25,857	0.88	18,153	70.2	324	2,173	0.48	1,880	86.5
2007	545	25,491	0.82	18,509	72.6	320	2,085	0.52	1,802	86.4
2008	554	26,317	0.76	19,793	75.2	310	2,255	0.49	1,965	87.1
2009	518	25,709	0.77	19,451	75.7	308	2,291	0.44	2,055	89.7
2010	454	17,693	0.73	13,815	78.1	255	1,318	0.46	1,158	87.9

¹ CY2010 thru 8/31/2010.

DO - Designated Occupation

DWP - Designated Work Position

The above data summarizes the results of operator compliance sampling at underground and surface coal mining operations during the past five years under existing sampling requirements and enforcement procedures.

Specifically, for each calendar year, beginning with 2006, the chart shows the number of mines that were sampled, the total number of valid respirable dust samples that were collected, the average dust concentration, and the number and percentage of samples with dust concentration measurements that equaled 1.0 mg/m³ (the proposed exposure limit) or less.

These data show that average dust concentrations across all sampled occupations in underground and surface operations were below exposure limits under existing standards, as well as below the proposed limit of 1.0 mg/m³. For example, during CY 2006, the 25,857 DO samples averaged 0.88 mg/m³ and more than 70% of the individual sample results averaged 1.0 mg/m³ or less. The overall average dust concentration at surface operations was lower, at 0.48 mg/m³, with over 86% of the individual measurements averaging 1.0 mg/m³ or less. These data indicate that significant progress has been made by the mining industry over the past five years in lowering both the overall average dust concentration and the percentage of individual occupation samples that exceeded 1.0 mg/m³.

Based on the most recent sampling results, more than three out every four operator compliance samples collected during CY 2010 averaged 1.0 mg/m³ or less.