



APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION CENTER

Vol. 6 No. 1
January 2005

Customer Service Update

A&CC Hosts Part 6 Workshop

The Approval and Certification Center (A&CC) hosted a Part 6 Workshop on September 9, 2004. Approximately 40 people representing both manufacturers and independent laboratories were in attendance to hear presentations on how the industry could best take advantage of the new regulation.

The A&CC is starting to receive applications that take advantage of the recently promulgated 30 CFR Part 6 regulation titled "Testing and Evaluation by Independent Laboratories and Non-MSHA Product Safety Standards." This regulation was published in the Federal Register on June 17, 2003.

Part 6 permits the A&CC to accept testing and evaluation results from an independent laboratory in lieu of MSHA performing such test and evaluations. The regulation also permits manufacturers to request approval for products tested/evaluated under non-

MSHA product safety standards once MSHA has determined such standards to provide at least the same degree of protection as MSHA requirements or that the standard(s) can be modified to provide at least the same degree of protection.

An applicant wishing to submit a product that has been tested and evaluated by a third party must submit evidence that the laboratory is independent from commercial, financial or other pressures that could influence the results of the testing and evaluation process. The applicant also must submit evidence that the laboratory has been recognized to test and evaluate to the applicable test and evaluation standard by a laboratory accrediting organization. The applicant is required to submit a complete technical explanation of how the product complies with each applicable requirement and identify components or features of the product that are critical to the safety of the product. Finally, the applicant must submit all documentation, including drawings and

specifications, which were submitted to the independent laboratory. For more information on Part 6, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.msha.gov/Part6SingleSource/Part6SingleSource.asp>

The A&CC is currently in the process of evaluating the International Electrotechnical Commission's (IEC) 60079-0, 60079-1, and 60079-11 standards for equivalency. These IEC standards represent the international requirements for design of flameproof enclosures and intrinsically safe apparatus. The results of the evaluation are expected to be published in the Federal Register (FR) sometime shortly after the start of the new year. The A&CC intends to host a second Part 6 workshop shortly after publication of the FR notice to communicate the results of the evaluation.

Proximity Protection

MSHA and its project partners Massey Energy, Nautilus International, and Joy Mining Machinery continue to progress in the development of a proximity protection system that can be deployed on remote control continuous mining machines to improve operational safety and reduce accidents.

Several field tests of the Nautilus system have identified issues that necessitated design modifications. The latest modification was completed in September 2004 and field testing is expected to resume this January. For more information on proximity protection, please refer to the following link: **http://www.msha.gov/Accident_Prevention/NewTechnologies/**

Initiatives/ProximityProtection/Proximityprotection.asp

MSHA has also recently initiated joint endeavors to pursue development of two other proximity detection designs. MSHA and NIOSH have developed a plan to field test the NIOSH Hazardous Area Signaling and Ranging Device (HASARD) in underground mines. MSHA also recently met with International Mining Technologies (IMT) from Australia to discuss their "Mine Mate" proximity detection system and plan on conducting field tests of that system as well.

Guidelines for Fuel Injected Diesel Engines

The Electronic Diesel Engine Task Force (a group made up of representatives from each A&CC Division) has developed Permissibility Guidelines for Electronically-Controlled, Fuel-Injected, Diesel Engines. These regulation-based guidelines have been accepted by A&CC Management, MSHA Headquarters Management, and the Solicitors Office. This technical guidance is intended to assist applicants in meeting the requirements for electronically controlled diesel engines approved as Category A, or "permissible," under 30 CFR, Part 7.

Because technologies are constantly changing and designs and approaches differ, MSHA may approve technical solutions on a case-by case basis. An alternative approach to this technical guidance may be used if MSHA finds that the alternative satisfies the

requirements of the applicable statute and regulations.

For a copy of the guidelines or for additional information, contact Bob Setren (304) 547-2324 (E-mail: Setren.Robert@dol.gov) or George Saseen (304) 547-20972 (E-mail: Saseen.George@dol.gov).

Innovative Products

MSHA'S Accident Prevention web pages include safety tips, programs, and material that can be used to prevent accidents in the mining industry. The safety tips, programs and material were donated by miners, mine operators, MSHA employees, and other interested parties.

Also included in the Accident Prevention web pages is an innovative products page. MSHA has evaluated these products and feel they have the potential to reduce certain hazards. Some products are new, while others have been used for some time in either mines or industries other than mining. For products to be listed, they need to exhibit some unique feature that has the potential to enhance the current safety level in mines. Manufacturers wanting MSHA to evaluate such products for posting should contact the Approval and Certification Center at 304-547-0400 or e-mail InnovativeProducts@dol.gov.

For more information on innovative products, please refer to the following link: http://www.msha.gov/Accident_Prevention/innovativeproducts/innovativeproducts.asp.

Here are individual links to the five types of products currently listed:

- "[Glow in the Dark](#)" - *Paints that glow in the dark*
- "[Hoisting and Towing Alternatives](#)" - *Slings developed with high performance synthetic fibers*
- "[Operator Restraint Systems](#)" - *Modular systems of padded restraining bars*
- "[Stopping Conveyors in their Tracks](#)" - *Conveyor rollers*
- "[Welding Voltage Reduction Devices](#)" – *Welding safety device*

New Fire Fighting Agent Program

Program Information Bulletin: P04-22: New Voluntary Program to Evaluate Fire Suppression Agents, Devices and Systems (<http://www.msha.gov/regs/complian/pib/2004/pib04-22.htm>), was issued on September 30, 2004, to establish a new program called the Voluntary Fire Suppression Suitability Program. The program was designed to consolidate requests to evaluate "new or novel" fire suppression agents, devices, or systems through the Approval & Certification Center. The "new" agents may be unique wetting agents, heat extracting agents, or agents that are environmentally friendly such as Halon replacements. The program initially will provide means for manufacturers of "new and novel" fire suppression agents to have their

product(s) evaluated to determine suitability for use in mining operations. The program is voluntary but a fee is charged for evaluating the products for suitability.

For the application procedure, please refer to the following link:
<http://www.msha.gov/techsupp/acc/application/asap3025.pdf>.

Diesel Engine Altitude Deration

Mechanical and Engineering Safety Division (MESD) personnel have worked with the Coal Diesel Partnership to develop a set of guidelines for diesel engines operating at altitudes that will be used for the engines' approvals. The Coal Diesel Partnership is a coalition of mining industry stakeholders dedicated to the goal of solving diesel equipment related issues important to the mining industry. The group consists of representatives from the Bituminous Coal Operators of America, the United Mine Workers of America, the National Mining Association, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and MSHA.

The guidelines provide a method for setting the maximum altitude at which an engine can operate before fuel deration is required. Engine exhaust emissions can increase as an engine operates at higher altitudes without fuel deration due to the decrease in available oxygen from the less dense air. Engine manufacturers can follow the prescribed deration scheme outlined in the guidelines or actually have the engine tested at altitudes representative of their end-use.

Additionally, MESD performed diesel emission testing at facilities located at various altitudes. These results agreed with testing simulating similar altitudes at the A&CC laboratory. The A&CC can now run diesel engines at simulated altitudes for both approval and audit testing.

For a copy of the guidelines or for additional information, contact George Saseen (304) 547-20972 (E-mail: **Saseen.George@dol.gov**) or Jeff Moninger (304) 547-2324 (E-mail: **Moninger.Jeffrey@dol.gov**).

Electronic Detonators

Program Information Bulletin: P04-20: Electronic Detonators and Requirements for Shunting and Circuit Testing (**<http://www.msha.gov/regs/complian/pib/2004/pib04-20.htm>**) was issued on September 27 2004 to clarify the application of the "shunting" and "circuit testing" requirements of Title 30 CFR (30 CFR) §§ 77.1303, 56.6407, 56.6407, 57.6401, and 57.6407. A&CC personnel have determined that two types of electronic detonators comply with MSHA standards and do not need to be shunted by twisting together of leg wires or circuit tested using a blasting galvanometer.

This PIB was prepared as the result of the new technology of electronic detonators entering into the blasting arena that could cause confusion in applying MSHA regulations to the mining industry. The PIB and the related technical report remove ambiguous interpretations of the applicable standards and allow uniform

enforcement of MSHA regulations as is appropriate for the new electronic detonator blasting technology.

For additional information, contact Thomas Lobb, (304) 547-2302 (E-mail: lobb.thomas@dol.gov) or Harry Verakis, (304) 547-2082 (E-mail: verakis.harry@dol.gov).

Approval Applications in Electronic Format

MSHA encourages the use of electronic submissions for product approval. The Approval & Certification Center can accept approval applications submitted electronically via email or FTP. Most versions of common electronic formats (e.g., .doc, .xls, .tif, .pdf, .txt, .dwg) are supported. Test files can be sent to ipso@msha.gov to confirm A&CC support.

Need more information? Call the Information Processing Services Office (IPSO) at (304) 547-0400 or link to <http://www.msha.gov/techsupp/acc/application/online.htm>.

Credit Cards Now Accepted

Payment processing just got easier! You can now use your Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or Diner's Club to pay your A&CC invoices. Call (303) 231-5871 for details.

The Approval and Certification Center wishes all of its stakeholders a Happy, Safe and Healthy 2005!

Key Contacts

Center Chief - Steven J. Luzik, (304) 547-2029, luzik.steven@dol.gov

Chief, Electrical Safety Division - David Chirdon, (304) 547-2026, chirdon.david@dol.gov

Chief, Mechanical and Engineering Safety Division - John P. Faini, (304) 547-2042, faini.john@dol.gov

Chief, Quality Assurance and Material Testing Division - Kenneth A. Sproul, (304) 547-2038, sproul.kenneth@dol.gov

Chief, Applied Engineering Division – Joseph Judeikis (304) 547-2039, judeikis.joseph@dol.gov

Chief, Administrative Services Division – Rod Nichols (304) 547-2036, nichols.don@dol.gov