

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to the investigator in evaluating the placement of the main disconnect switch on an approved mining machine/system.

2.0 SCOPE

This Policy (POL) encompasses all mining machines/systems submitted to MSHA for evaluation under 30 CFR, Part 18.

3.0 REFERENCES

30 CFR, Section 18.48(a).

4.0 DEFINITIONS

Main disconnect switch- The circuit interrupting device required by 30 CFR 18.48(a) to deenergize all power conductors at the machine/system. The circuit-interrupting device is further defined in the MSHA Program Policy Manual, 30 CFR 18.48.

5.0 POLICY

- 5.1. The machine/system main disconnect switch must be in an accessible location on the machine/system so as to ensure the safety of the person that is using the switch, and the person(s) working in or around the machine/system. In order to operate the switch, a person should not be placed in a hazardous position.
- 5.2. If the main disconnect switch is accessible from the operator's compartment, then it meets the intent of this policy. If the switch location requires the operator of the machine/system to exit the operator's compartment to operate the switch, then the investigator should require additional documentation to ensure compliance with this requirement. The documentation should include an explanation of what steps the operator would need to accomplish to operate the switch, and an explanation of how the design does not place the operator in a hazardous position.