

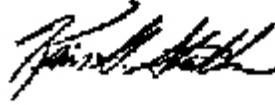
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PROCEDURE INSTRUCTION LETTER NO. I11-V-10

FROM:

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Administrator for
Coal Mine Safety and Health



SUBJECT:

Mine Rescue Inspections Pertaining to Mine Rescue Teams and
Mine Rescue Stations

Scope

This Procedure Instruction Letter (PIL) applies to Coal Mine Safety and Health (CMS&H) enforcement personnel.

Purpose

The purpose of this PIL is to provide instructions on mine rescue inspections. 30 C.F.R. Part 49, Subpart B contains the requirements addressing the three essential elements of effective mine rescue teams: (1) ready availability; (2) proper equipment; and (3) basic levels of skills and training. The inspection of mine rescue stations will ensure that mine rescue teams meet these essential elements.

Procedure Instructions

All mine rescue stations shall be inspected quarterly during the regular (E01) inspection except for state-maintained Mine Rescue Stations, which shall be inspected bi-annually. If an E01 inspection is not open, the inspection may be conducted during a spot (E16) inspection. When the inspection is conducted during an E01 event, all notes and citations must be added to the E01 report. If the inspection of the mine rescue station is completed during an E16 inspection, the inspector must notify the field office supervisor assigned to the mine and provide the event number, mine identification number, and the date of the inspection. The field office supervisor will note this information on the event cover sheet.

For mine rescue stations that cover more than one mine, the inspection can be conducted during an E01 or E16 inspection of any of the covered mines. Under these circumstances, to avoid duplication of mine rescue station inspections and to minimize confusion, the inspector must notify the field office supervisors assigned to the mines

and provide the event number, mine identification number, and the date of the inspection. The field office supervisor will note this information on the event cover sheet.

If violations of 30 C.F.R. Part 49 Subpart B are found during the inspection, duplicate citations must be issued to each mine covered by the mine rescue station. Citations, notes, and any other information must be sent to the field office supervisor and must be included in the inspection report for each mine. The citations can be issued on an E01 or E16 inspection as appropriate.

In addition to the annual statement submitted to the District Manager by the mine operator certifying that each team meets the requirements of 30 C.F.R. Part 49 Subpart B inspection personnel can use the attached check sheet during an inspection pertaining to mine rescue teams and mine rescue stations to assist in verifying compliance. The attached check sheet can also serve as inspection notes.

Background

This PIL is intended to ensure that MSHA inspectors check mine rescue stations for compliance with 30 C.F.R. Part 49, Subpart B provisions.

Authority

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended, 30 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.; and 30 C.F.R. Part 49, Subpart B.

Internet Availability

This PIL may be viewed on the Internet by accessing the MSHA home page (www.msha.gov) choosing "Compliance Info" and "Procedure Instruction Letters."

Issuing Office and Contact Persons

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Distribution

MSHA Program Policy Manual Holders

Attachment

Check Sheet for Mine Rescue Inspections Pertaining to Mine Rescue
Teams and Mine Rescue Stations

MSHA Mine ID No.: _____

Company Name: _____

Mine Name: _____

Inspected By: _____

Date: _____

Using the operator's annual certification of mine rescue team's qualification, which is submitted to the District Manager, and a physical inspection of the mine rescue station, check the following for compliance:

§§ 49.12(a)(1); 49.12(a)(2); 49.12(g); Two teams are available at all times when miners are underground

§ 49.12(b); Each team has five members and one alternate except where alternative compliance is permitted

§ 49.12(c); Each team member has experience working in an underground coal mine

§ 49.12(f); Team is available within 1-hour ground travel time from the mine rescue station to the mine

§ 49.12(h); Posting of statement describing the mine's method of compliance with Part 49

§ 49.16; Appropriate mine rescue equipment is provided, inspected, tested, and maintained ready for immediate use at the mine rescue station;

§ 49.17; Each team member is physically fit; Check MSHA Form 5000-3 for each member

§ 49.18(a); Each team member has completed initial training

§ 49.18(b); Each team member is properly trained annually

§ 49.19; Mine emergency notification plan outlining the procedures to follow in notifying mine rescue teams and posting of the plan at the mine

§ 49.20(a)(1); Team members are familiar with the operations of each covered mine

§ 49.20(a)(2); Each team member participates in at least two local mine rescue contests annually

§§ 49.20 (b)(1); 49.20(b)(iii); 49.20 (b)(3)(iii); 49.20(b)(4); Each team member participates in mine rescue training at each covered mine

§§ 49.20(b)(2)(ii); 49.20(b)(3)(i); 49.30; Each team member is knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered mine