

**AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN
THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
AND
THE INSTITUTE OF MAKERS OF EXPLOSIVES**

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) recognize the value of renewing a collaborative relationship to foster safer and more healthful working conditions at the Nation's mining operations. MSHA and IME hereby renew their Alliance under the authority of 30 U.S.C. § 962 to provide mine industry personnel with information, guidance, and access to training materials that emphasize and advance the safe use of explosives.

MSHA and IME will work cooperatively through the Alliance to:

- Promote explosives safety for the mining community;
- Aid in identifying the scope of mine safety and health concerns and provide ways to proactively communicate those concerns to manufacturers of explosives and blasting materials that provide services at mine sites;
- Leverage IME's explosives expertise to develop, distribute and promote educational and safety training resources related to explosive and blasting materials;
- Develop and disseminate best practices to stakeholders who use explosives and contract blasting services;
- Promote distribution of MSHA Safety Alerts and other safety resources;
- Promote IME participation in the development of appropriate safety resources;
- Speak, exhibit, or appear at MSHA and IME conferences, other industry conferences or meetings attended by mine operators and explosives users and contractors to promote safe use of explosives and blasting materials;
- Review final MSHA-provided accident reports and accident data that involve materials and work practices within IME's scope;
- Ensure that health and safety programs are fair and inclusive, and reach all persons in the industry workforce, including those who do not speak English as their primary language; and
- Ensure that personal protective equipment (PPE) is available, accessible, and suitably fitted to all workers in the industry, including those who are hard to fit, and that workers understand how and when to properly use PPE.

MSHA will be represented by designated personnel from Technical Support, Mine Safety and Health Enforcement, and Educational Policy and Development; other appropriate program areas will provide support as needed. IME will be represented by designated personnel from IME staff, Board of Governors, Technical Committee, and MSHA Subcommittee; other IME Members will provide support as needed.

Subject to the approval process of each party, a team made up of representatives of both organizations will meet to define a plan of action, address working procedures, and identify the roles and responsibilities of the participants. In addition, they will meet at least once a year to track and share information on activities and results in achieving the goals of the Alliance.

IME is authorized, with the approval of MSHA, to use the MSHA Alliance logo on documents, web pages, or other products relating to or created under the Alliance for as long as the Alliance remains in effect and according to MSHA's "Guidance on the Use of the Alliance Logo" at <http://www.msha.gov/alliances/Formed/logo-guidance.pdf>. The logo must not be used for fundraising or lobbying efforts or to imply that MSHA endorses a particular entity or its actions or products. Before the Alliance logo may be used, MSHA and IME must approve all materials and products developed under this Alliance. When possible, all documents or other products with the logo must contain the following statement:

This product was developed as part of the MSHA Alliance Program. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of MSHA. Use of the Alliance logo is reserved for MSHA and its active Alliance partners. The MSHA Alliance Program is to promote miner safety and health through voluntary partnerships, which provide training and education, outreach, technical assistance, and a national dialogue on mine safety and health. For more information, contact MSHA at (202) 693-9414 or <http://www.msha.gov/alliances/alliances.htm>.

MSHA and IME will provide all services, products, and resources relating to or created under this Alliance without reimbursement from the other party. This Alliance creates no private right of action against the Federal Government or IME. This Alliance creates no rights in any third party. This Alliance is subject to the availability of funds. This agreement will not be construed as obligating funds. Nothing in this agreement obligates MSHA to expend appropriations or enter into any contract or other obligations.

Nothing in this Alliance shall limit, supersede, or otherwise affect MSHA's normal operations or decisions in carrying out its statutory or regulatory duties. This Alliance does not limit or restrict the parties from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other entities. This Alliance also does not limit or restrict the parties from taking any other action necessary.

This agreement will remain in effect until December 31, 2026. Either signatory may terminate it for any reason at any time, provided they give 30 days' written notice. This agreement may be modified at any time with the concurrence of both signatories.

Christopher J. Williamson

Christopher J. Williamson
Assistant Secretary for
Mine Safety and Health

10/5/2023

Date

J. Clark Mica

J. Clark Mica
President
Institute of Makers of Explosives

10/17/23

Date