Corrective Actions
When A Sample Meets or Exceeds the ECV on Operator Samples

Health Hazard Information Card HH-55

What is an ECV?
- ECV stands for Excessive Concentration Value:
  - indicates with 95% confidence the standard has been exceeded
  - ECVs are different based on the type of sampling device used and the number of samples collected
    - ECV for single full-shift samples CMDPSU and CPDM
    - ECV for average of 5 or 15 samples CMDPSU and CPDM

What triggers corrective actions?
- Any single sample that meets or exceeds the ECV

What corrective actions are required?
- The operator must:
  - make respirators available
  - immediately take corrective action to lower the respirable dust levels to at or below the applicable standard
  - record the corrective actions in a secure book or electronically

Will a citation be issued?
- A citation will not be issued if:
  - only 1 of 5 required samples meets or exceeds the ECV or
  - only 1 or 2 of 15 required samples meets or exceeds the ECV
When will a citation be issued?

- A citation will be issued if:
  - 2 or more of 5 required samples meets or exceeds the ECV or
  - 3 or more of 15 required samples meets or exceeds the ECV or
  - the average of all required samples meets or exceeds the ECV

What is required if a citation is issued?

- The operator must:
  - make respirators available
  - immediately take corrective action to lower the respirable dust levels to at or below the applicable standard
  - record the corrective actions in a secure book or electronically
  - within 8 days begin sampling consecutive normal production shifts until 5 valid samples are collected

If you have questions about any occupational health matter, please contact your local MSHA office or MSHA’s national office at (202) 693-9500.

Our job is to protect your health

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