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PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. P12-02

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Mine Safety and Health

SUBJECT: New Notification Alternatives to Comply with
30 C.F.R. §§ 56/57.1000

Scope

This Program Information Bulletin (PIB) applies to metal and nonmetal mine operators.

Purpose

The purpose of this PIB is to remind operators of the requirement in 30 C.F.R. §§ 56/57.1000 concerning the notification of commencement of operations and closing of mines.

Information

30 C.F.R. §§ 56/57.1000 require mine operators to notify the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) before starting operations of the approximate or actual date mine operation will commence. The notification shall include the mine name, location, the company name, mailing address, person in charge, and whether operations will be continuous or intermittent. When any mine is closed, the person in charge shall notify MSHA and indicate whether the closure is temporary or permanent.

Metal and nonmetal operators must comply with this existing requirement. MSHA suggests that operators can send MSHA the mine's physical location, street address, map coordinates, or mileage and direction from the nearest town. Metal and nonmetal operators of portable plants are reminded that the existing standard requires notification when a move is made from one pit or location to another. To be in compliance, the notification must be prior to opening or closing a mine. MSHA recommends and encourages operators to notify the Agency at least two weeks prior to the actual or anticipated date for commencement or closure of mine operations.

Effective February 1, 2012, two new alternatives are available to aid in meeting the requirements of 30 C.F.R. §§ 56/57.1000 reporting, in addition to the existing process. The two new alternatives are:

1. Online Reporting: Effective February 1, 2012, the MSHA "[Forms and Online Filing](#)" internet web page will have a new link for reporting commencement or closing of operations. This interface will allow you to notify MSHA using your existing e-gov account and password. If you do not already have an e-gov account, you may create one at any time.
2. Toll Free Telephone Call: Effective February 1, 2012, mine operators will be able to call MSHA's toll free number (1-800-746-1553) to report operating status changes. When a call is made, an option will be provided to leave your information via a recorded message. Your information will be forwarded to your district and field office.

In addition to the two new notification options, mine operators will still be able to notify the local field office or the district office by telephone, fax, email or U. S. mail.

We have attached a chart to this bulletin which outlines the information you should provide when using one of these two new alternatives.

Background

In carrying out MSHA's enforcement requirements, inspectors travel to mines they believe to be operational, only to find the mine temporarily or permanently closed. 30 C.F.R. §§ 56/57.1000 require operator notification for either commencement of operations (intermittent/ continuous) or closure (temporary/permanent).

Authority

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended, 30 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.; 30 C.F.R. § 56.1000 and 30 C.F.R. § 57.1000.

Internet Availability

This PIB may be viewed on the Internet by accessing MSHA home page (www.msha.gov) and then choosing "Compliance Assistance," "Compliance Info" and "Program Information Bulletin."

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Distribution

Metal and Nonmetal Underground Operators

Metal and Nonmetal Surface Mine or Mill Operators

Special Interest Groups

The table below outlines the information to be provided when reporting commencement and/or closure of a mining operation. If you use the toll free number, you are encouraged to call between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday except holidays. Any calls received outside of this time will not be processed until the next business day. Callers are also encouraged to speak slowly and spell out any information which may not be clear through pronunciation alone. Additional information and instructions will be provided in conjunction with the implementation of these reporting alternatives.

All Metal and Nonmetal Mining Operations (in accordance with 30 CFR §§ 56.57.1000)	
Reported Item	Information
Mine ID	MSHA assigned identification number
Reported By	Individual reporting the information
Phone Number	A contact telephone number
E-Mail	A contact e-mail address
Operating Change (Report Type)	Commencement of operation 1. Continuous 2. Intermittent Closure of operation 1. Temporary 2. Permanent
Effective Date	Operators are encouraged to report at least two weeks before actual or anticipated date of commencement or closure of operation.

Portable Operations Reporting a Commencement of Operations with Location Change: (in addition to the above information, please also provide the information below)	
Nearest Town, Landmark, or Post Office	Provide name of closest, identifiable location
State	State where portable will commence operation
County	County in the state where portable will commence operation
Directions	Clear directions to the location of the portable mine