

# Surface Mobile Equipment Safety Program

Mine Safety and Health Administration



# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## **Compliance Dates**

- The final rule became effective on January 19, 2024.
- MSHA will begin enforcing the standard on July 17, 2024.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## **Purpose**

- The purpose of the standard is to promote and support a positive safety culture and improve miners' safety at the mine.

## **Scope**

- All production operators and part 45 independent contractors must have a written safety program for surface mobile equipment at surface coal and metal and nonmetal mines.
- The standard also applies to surface mobile equipment at surface areas of underground coal mines and metal and nonmetal mines.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## **Part 45 Independent Contractors**

- Part 45 independent contractors have the same responsibilities as production operators.
- MSHA expects most independent contractors will develop and implement their own safety program or integrate their safety programs into the production operators' safety program.
- MSHA expects production operators and part 45 independent contractors to communicate and coordinate with each other on their respective safety programs. If they agree to integrate their safety programs, the independent contractor does not need to develop a separate safety program.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## **Surface mobile equipment includes:**

- Wheeled, skid-mounted, track-mounted, or rail-mounted equipment capable of moving or being moved, and any powered equipment that transports people, equipment, or materials.
- The rule excludes belt conveyors and any manually powered tools such as wheelbarrows, hand carts, push carts, welding carts, cylinder carts, basic hand trucks, or dollies.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## Written Safety Program Requirements

- A written safety program includes actions taken to:
  1. Identify and analyze hazards and reduce the risks related to the movement and operation of surface mobile equipment.
  2. Develop and maintain procedures and schedules for routine maintenance and non-routine repairs for surface mobile equipment;
  3. Identify currently available and newly emerging feasible technologies that can enhance safety at the mine and evaluate whether to adopt them; and
  4. Train miners and other persons at the mine to identify and address or avoid hazards related to surface mobile equipment.
- Production operators and part 45 independent contractors must solicit input from miners and their representatives in developing and updating the written safety program.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## Written Safety Program Requirements

- Identify and analyze hazards and reduce the risks related to the movement and operation of surface mobile equipment.

A responsible person must evaluate and update the safety program at least annually or as:

- mining conditions or practices change that may affect miners' safety or health;
- accidents or injuries occur; or as
- surface mobile equipment changes or modifications are made.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## **The Responsible Person**

- Production operators and part 45 independent contractors must designate at least one person to evaluate and update the safety program.
- The responsible person must have experience and knowledge about mining conditions and processes necessary to evaluate and update the written safety program.
- Multiple persons can be designated as a responsible person.



# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## Written Safety Program Requirements

- Identify currently available and newly emerging feasible technologies that can enhance safety at the mine and evaluate whether to adopt them.
  - Consider feasible technologies that are capable of being used successfully at the mine.
  - Demonstrate compliance by showing, for example, that the operator or their personnel:
    1. attended industry meetings, or NIOSH and/or MSHA meetings that discuss available or newly emerging technologies;
    2. reviewed equipment vendor material; or
    3. attended mine safety and health conferences that include vendor exhibits and equipment demonstrations.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## **Written Safety Program Requirements**

- Develop and maintain procedures and schedules for routine maintenance and non-routine repairs for surface mobile equipment.
  - Procedures and schedules for maintenance and repairs can reflect or reference existing procedures and schedules.
  - New procedures and schedules are not necessary unless the operator does not have them in place already.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## **Written Safety Program Requirements**

- Train miners and other persons at the mine to identify and address or avoid hazards related to surface mobile equipment.
  - Parts 46 and 48 training plans, which already should include hazard training, are incorporated into the safety program.
  - No new training is required unless the mine operator has not addressed any newly identified hazards in the operator's applicable training plans.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## **Records and Inspection**

Production operators and part 45 independent contractors must:

- make the written safety program available for inspection by MSHA, miners, and miners' representatives; and
- provide copies, upon request, at no cost.

# Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

## **Compliance Assistance**

- MSHA will work with industry, labor, and other stakeholders to develop written safety program templates.
- MSHA will also provide the mining community training materials, best practices and guidance, and technical assistance.
- All compliance assistance materials will be posted on MSHA's website.