

Enhancing Respiratory Protection in Mining

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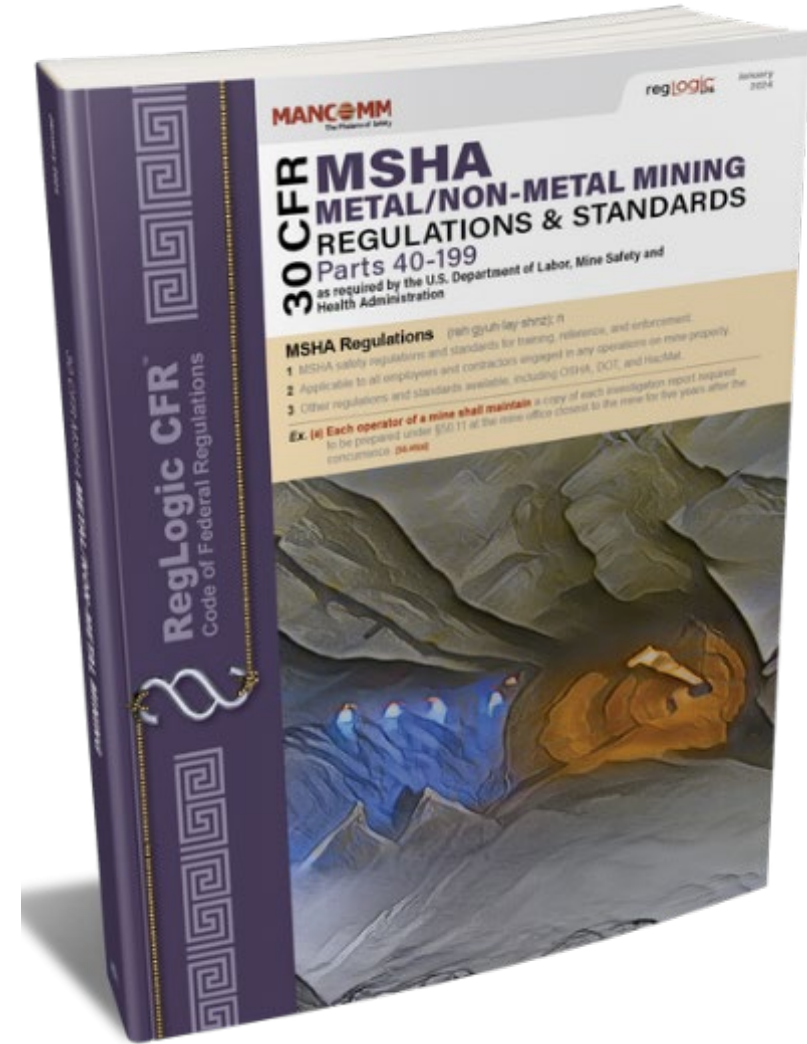
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Section 5

Responsibilities and Regulations



<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-30>

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-30/chapter-I/subchapter-K>

Wearer Responsibilities

1. Use the provided respirator in accordance with instructions and training.
2. Guard against damage to the respirator.
3. Immediately leave the contaminated area if:
 - Contaminant is detected by odor, taste, or irritation;
 - Cartridge reaches end-of-service life or a respirator malfunctions.
4. Report any physical or medical condition that could impair the ability to wear a respirator properly.
5. Perform a user seal check each time a tight-fitting respirator is worn.

Mine Operator Responsibility

1. Select approved respirators and provide them at no cost to miners.
2. Establish and maintain a respiratory protection program.
3. Allow a miner wearing a respirator to leave the hazardous atmosphere for any respirator-related issues (reasons).
4. Investigate respirator malfunctions and ensure corrective measures are taken.
5. Establish a change schedule for filters, cartridges, and canisters or use a respirator equipped with an end-of-service life indicator.
6. Train miners on the proper and effective use of the provided respirators.
7. Ensure that miners wearing tight-fitting respirators perform a user seal check each time they don the respirator.

Respiratory Protection Program Administrator Responsibilities

1. Measure, estimate, or review information on the concentration of airborne contaminant(s) in the work area before respirator selection and periodically during respirator use;
2. Ensure medical evaluations, training, and fit testing are performed;
3. Select appropriate respirators;
4. Maintain records and written procedures;
5. Evaluate the respiratory protection program's effectiveness;
6. Revise the program as necessary.

30 CFR Part 60.14 Respiratory Protection

- Use respiratory protection as a **temporary measure** when miners must work in concentrations of RCS above the PEL while:
 - Engineering control measures are being developed or implemented;
 - It is necessary by the nature of work involved.
- Transfer affected miners who cannot wear a respirator to another area or occupation at the same mine, where respiratory protection is not required.
- Provide NIOSH-approved atmosphere-supplying respirators or air-purifying respirators; Respirators must be classified as **100 series or high efficiency (HE) filters** ($\geq 99.97\%$).
- Establish a **written respiratory protection program** with the following elements: program administration; standard operating procedures; medical evaluations; respirator selection; training; fit testing; maintenance, inspection, and storage (**ASTM F3387-19**).

Other MSHA Standards

1. Surface Metal and Nonmetal Mines

- [30 CFR 56.5005 – Control of exposure to airborne contaminants.](#)

2. Underground Metal and Nonmetal Mines

- [30 CFR 57.5005 – Control of exposure to airborne contaminants.](#)
- [30 CFR 57.5060 – Limit on exposure to diesel particulate matter.](#)

3. Coal Mines

- [30 CFR 72.710 – Selection, fit, use, and maintenance of approved respirators.](#)

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-30/chapter-I/subchapter-K/part-56>

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-30/chapter-I/subchapter-K/part-57>

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-30/chapter-I/subchapter-O/part-72>