

and Health Administration and maintained in permissible condition.

*Potable water* means water which shall meet the applicable minimum health requirements for drinking water established by the State or community in which the mine is located or by the Environmental Protection Agency in 40 CFR part 141, pages 169-182 revised as of July 1, 1977. Where no such requirements are applicable, the drinking water provided shall conform with the Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards, 42 CFR part 72, subpart J, pages 527-533, revised as of October 1, 1976. Publications to which references are made in this definition are hereby made a part hereof. These incorporated publications are available for inspection at each Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health District Office of the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

*Powder chest* means a substantial, nonconductive portable container equipped with a lid and used at blasting sites for explosives other than blasting agents.

*Primer* means a unit, package, or cartridge of explosives used to initiate other explosives or blasting agents, and which contains a detonator.

*Reverse-current protection* means a method or device used on direct-current circuits or equipment to prevent the flow of current in the reverse direction.

*Roll protection* means a framework, safety canopy or similar protection for the operator when equipment overturns.

*Safety can* means an approved container, of not over five gallons capacity, having a spring-closing lid and spout cover.

*Safety fuse* means a flexible cord containing an internal burning medium by which fire is conveyed at a continuous and uniform rate for the purpose of firing blasting caps or a black powder charge.

*Safety switch* means a sectionalizing switch that also provides shunt protection in blasting circuits between the blasting switch and the shot area.

*Scaling* means removal of insecure material from a face or high-wall.

*Secondary safety connection* means a second connection between a convey-

ance and rope, intended to prevent the conveyance from running away or falling in the event the primary connection fails.

*Shaft* means a vertical or inclined shaft, a slope, incline or winze.

*Short circuit* means an abnormal connection of relatively low resistance, whether made accidentally or intentionally, between two points of different potential in a circuit.

*Slurry* (as applied to blasting). See "Water gel."

*Stray current* means that portion of a total electric current that flows through paths other than the intended circuit.

*Substantial construction* means construction of such strength, material, and workmanship that the object will withstand all reasonable shock, wear, and usage, to which it will be subjected.

*Suitable* means that which fits, and has the qualities or qualifications to meet a given purpose, occasion, condition, function, or circumstance.

*Travelway* means a passage, walk or way regularly used and designated for persons to go from one place to another.

*Water gel* or *Slurry* (as applied to blasting) means an explosive or blasting agent containing substantial portions of water.

*Wet drilling* means the continuous application of water through the central hole of hollow drill steel to the bottom of the drill hole.

*Working place* means any place in or about a mine where work is being performed.

[50 FR 4054, Jan. 29, 1985; as amended at 53 FR 32520, Aug. 25, 1988; 60 FR 35695, July 11, 1995]

PROCEDURES

**§ 56.1000 Notification of commencement of operations and closing of mines.**

The owner, operator, or person in charge of any metal and nonmetal mine shall notify the nearest Mine Safety and Health Administration and Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health District Office before starting

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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 the nearest sub-district office as provided above and indicate whether the closure is temporary or permanent.

[50 FR 4054, Jan. 29, 1985, as amended at 60 FR 33723, June 29, 1995; 60 FR 35695, July 11, 1995]

### Subpart B—Ground Control

AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 811

SOURCE: 51 FR 36197, Oct. 8, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 56.3000 Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this subpart.

*Rock fixture.* Any tensioned or non-tensioned device or material inserted into the ground to strengthen or support the ground.

*Travelway.* A passage, walk, or way regularly used or designated for persons to go from one place to another.

#### MINING METHODS

#### § 56.3130 Wall, bank, and slope stability.

Mining methods shall be used that will maintain wall, bank, and slope stability in places where persons work or travel in performing their assigned tasks. When benching is necessary, the width and height shall be based on the type of equipment used for cleaning of benches or for scaling of walls, banks, and slopes.

#### § 56.3131 Pit or quarry wall perimeter.

In places where persons work or travel in performing their assigned tasks, loose or unconsolidated material shall be sloped to the angle of repose or stripped back for at least 10 feet from the top of the pit or quarry wall. Other conditions at or near the perimeter of the pit or quarry wall which create a fall-of-material hazard to persons shall be corrected.

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### SCALING AND SUPPORT

#### § 56.3200 Correction of hazardous conditions.

Ground conditions that create a hazard to persons shall be taken down or supported before other work or travel is permitted in the affected area. Until corrective work is completed, the area shall be posted with a warning against entry and, when left unattended, a barrier shall be installed to impede unauthorized entry.

#### § 56.3201 Location for performing scaling.

Scaling shall be performed from a location which will not expose persons to injury from falling material, or other protection from falling material shall be provided.

#### § 56.3202 Scaling tools.

Where manual scaling is performed, a scaling bar shall be provided. This bar shall be of a length and design that will allow the removal of loose material without exposing the person performing this work to injury.

#### § 56.3203 Rock fixtures.

(a) For rock bolts and accessories addressed in ASTM F432-95, "Standard Specification for Roof and Rock Bolts and Accessories," the mine operator shall—

(1) Obtain a manufacturer's certification that the material was manufactured and tested in accordance with the specifications of ASTM F432-95; and

(2) Make this certification available to an authorized representative of the Secretary and to the representative of miners.

(b) Fixtures and accessories not addressed in ASTM F432-95 may be used for ground support provided they—

(1) Have been successful in supporting the ground in an area with similar strata, opening dimensions and ground stresses in any mine; or

(2) Have been tested and shown to be effective in supporting ground in an area of the affected mine which has similar strata, opening dimensions, and ground stresses as the area where the fixtures are expected to be used. During the test process, access to the test