



Overexposures to Noise and Dust

62.120 – This is the Action Level (AL). A miner that is found to be overexposed to noise at this level must be enrolled into a Hearing Conservation Plan (HCP). The will involve training, the use of hearing protection and audiometric testing. A miner may choose to forego the audiometric testing at their discretion but the enrollment in all other aspects of the HCP is required. The miner must remain enrolled in the HCP as long as they perform the occupation that was cited or until subsequent sampling shows that noise levels have been reduced to less than the Action Level.

62.130- This is the Permissible Exposure Level (PEL). A miner that is found to be overexposed to noise at this level must be enrolled into a Hearing Conservation Plan (HCP). The will involve training, the use of hearing protection and audiometric testing. A miner may choose to forego the audiometric testing at their discretion but the enrollment in all other aspects of the HCP is required. The miner must remain enrolled in the HCP as long as they perform the occupation that was cited or until subsequent sampling shows that noise levels have been reduced to less than the Action Level.

In addition to the above, efforts must be made to ensure the miner is exposed to no more than the action level described in 62.120. There are two types of efforts, administrative and engineering. Engineering controls are the preferred method.

Administrative Controls – These may include limiting the amount of time that a miner performs a specific task in an effort to control the miner’s exposure to a noise source. When administrative controls are used the affected miner(s) must receive a copy of the controls and a copy must be posted on the mine bulletin board.

Engineering Controls- These are changes to the noise source itself that are to have the effect of reducing the amount of noise that an employee can be exposed to. Once engineering controls are in place and are found to have the desired effect, they must be maintained.

56/57/5001/5005 and 57.5060 - This covers respirable dust, total dust and Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) overexposures. An over exposure to any of these requires that the affected miner(s) be enrolled in a respiratory protection program and be fit tested with the appropriate respiratory protection. In addition, the source of the employee overexposure must be identified and corrected through the use of engineering controls. Once engineering controls are in place and are found to have the desired effect, they must be maintained.

A miner that is enrolled in a respiratory protection program must remain in that program until sampling indicates that the miner is no longer overexposed to dust or diesel particulate matter. \

Any questions regarding the above may be directed to;
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