

Supporting Statement for
Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

OMB Control Number: 1219-0121

Information Collection Title: Safety Standards for Roof Bolts in Metal and Nonmetal Mines and Underground Coal Mines

Collection Instruments/Form Number(s): None

Authority:	30 CFR	
	<u>Citations</u>	<u>Title</u>
	56.3203	Rock fixtures
	57.3203	Rock fixtures
	75.204(a)(1) & (f)(6)	Roof bolting

General Instructions

A Supporting Statement, including the text of the notice to the public required by 5 CFR 1320.5(a)(i)(iv) and its actual or estimated date of publication in the *Federal Register*, must accompany each request for approval of a collection of information. The Supporting Statement must be prepared in the format described below, and must contain the information specified in Section A below. If an item is not applicable, provide a brief explanation. When the question "Does this ICR contain surveys, censuses or employ statistical methods" is checked "Yes", Section B of the Supporting Statement must be completed. OMB reserves the right to require the submission of additional information with respect to any request for approval.

Specific Instructions

A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C.

813(h), authorizes the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to collect information necessary to carry out its duty in protecting the safety and health of miners. Further, section 101(a) of the Mine Act, 30 U.S.C. 811, authorizes the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to develop, promulgate, and revise as may be appropriate, improved mandatory health or safety standards for the protection of life and prevention of injuries in coal and metal and nonmetal mines.

Accidents involving falls of mine roof, face, and rib in underground mines or falls of highwall in surface mines, historically, have been among the leading causes of injuries and deaths. Prevention or control of falls of roof, face, and rib is uniquely difficult because of the variety of conditions encountered in mines that can affect the stability of various types of strata and the changing nature of the forces affecting ground stability at any given operation and time. Roof and rock bolts and accessories are an integral part of ground control systems and are used to prevent the fall of roof, face, and rib. Advancements in technology of roof and rock bolts and accessories have aided in reducing the hazards associated with falls of roof, face, and rib.

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) publication "Standard Specification for Roof and Rock Bolts and Accessories" is a consensus standard used throughout the United States. It contains specifications for the chemical, mechanical, and dimensional requirements for roof and rock bolts and accessories used for ground support systems. The ASTM standard for roof and rock bolts and accessories is updated periodically to reflect advances in technology.

Title 30 CFR Parts 56 and 57 Subpart B-Ground Control, section 56.3203 and section 57.3203, and Part 75 Subpart C-Roof Support, section 75.204, address the quality of roof and rock bolts and accessories and their installation. These regulations ensure the quality and effectiveness of roof and rock bolts and accessories and, as technology evolves, to allow for the use of new materials which are proven to be reliable and effective in controlling the mine roof, face, and rib.

Sections 56.3203(a), 57.3203(a), and 75.204(a) require: (1) that mine operators obtain a certification from the manufacturer that roof and rock bolts and accessories are manufactured and tested in accordance with the applicable ASTM specifications, and (2) that the manufacturer's certification is made available to an authorized representative Secretary.

Sections 56.3203(h) and 57.3203(h) require that if the mine operator uses other tensioned and nontensioned fixtures and accessories for ground control that are not addressed by the applicable ASTM standard listed in sections 56.3203(a) and 57.3203(a), test methods must be established by the mine operator and used to verify their ground control effectiveness. Sections 56.3203(i) and 57.3203(i) require that the mine operator certify that the tests developed under sections 56.3203(h) and 57.3203(h) were conducted and such certifications be made available to an authorized representative of the Secretary.

Section 75.204(f)(6) requires that the mine operator or a person designated by the operator certify by signature and date that the measurements required by paragraph (f) (5) of this section have been made. Paragraph (f)(5) requires that in working places from which coal is produced during any portion of a 24-hour period, the actual torque or tension on at least one out of every ten previously installed mechanically anchored tensioned roof bolts is measured from the outby corner of the last open crosscut to the face in each advancing section. This certification must be maintained for at least one year and must be made available to an authorized representative of the Secretary and representative of the miners.

MSHA has found that the certification requirements are successful in maintaining compliance with requirements for roof and rock bolts and accessories.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

The manufacturer's certification assures mine operators that the material they use meets technical requirements established to promote safety and eliminates the concern that mine operators need to have the same engineering knowledge of the ASTM standard as manufacturers. The certifications also are made available to an authorized representative of the Secretary to attest to the appropriate testing and manufacture of the rock bolts and accessories.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

No improved information technology has been identified that would reduce the burden.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.

No similar or duplicate information exists. The certifications are a result of the purchase of roof or rock bolts and accessories from a specific manufacturer by the mine operator. Whereas a single mine operator may collect unique certification statements from each roof and rock bolt manufacturer, the manufacturers are able to use the same certification statement for all mine operators purchasing their products. The section 75.204(f)(6) certification of torque measurements taken under section 75.204(f) (5) are unique to each mine.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small

entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

This information does not have a significant impact on small businesses or other small entities.

6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

MSHA believes that these information collection requirements are the minimum necessary to ensure that mine roof, face, and rib are adequately supported and that ground control systems are effective. Reduction in these requirements may result in unsafe conditions developing in the mine, thus jeopardizing miners' safety. MSHA's existing regulations require mine operators to obtain a certification from the manufacturer that rock bolts and accessories are manufactured and tested in accordance with the applicable ASTM standard or, as an alternative for roof and rock bolts and accessories not addressed in the ASTM standard, to show that they have been successful in supporting the roof, face, or rib under similar ground strata, dimensions, and stresses.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- * requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- * requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**
- * requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- * requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records, for more than three years;**
- * in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- * requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- * that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- * requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secrets, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

The information collection is consistent with the requirements in 5 CFR 1320.5.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR

1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years - even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

MSHA published a 60-day Federal Register notice on July 7, 2018 (83 FR 33254). MSHA received no public comments.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

MSHA does not provide payments or gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

There is no assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

*** Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity,**

show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.

*** If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens.**

*** Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included under Item 13.**

Annual burden hours and related costs calculations is shown below. MSHA used data from the May 2017 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for hourly wage rates¹ and adjusted the rates for benefits² and wage inflation³.

Sections 56.3203(a)(1), 57.3203(a)(1), and 75.204(a)(1) require mine operators to obtain a manufacturer's certification that the material was manufactured and tested in accordance with the specifications of ASTM F432-95. Sections 56.3203(h) and 57.3203(h) allow mine operators to use other tensioned and nontensioned fixtures as long as test methods are established to verify their effectiveness. Certification of these tests are required under sections 56.3203(i) and 57.3203(i). Metal and Nonmetal mine operators have not exercised this option and use exclusively ASTM-compliant materials.

In general, the manufacturers of roof and rock bolts and accessories provide certification documents with each shipment of those items to mine operators or to vendors of their products. In some instances, the certifications may be packed in the shipment; in other instances, the certification documents may be sent with the billing or as a separate communication to the purchaser. In most, if not all cases, the manufacturer provides the required certifications at the time of shipment; the burden experienced in acquiring certification documents is minimal.

¹ Options for obtaining OES data are available at item "E3. How to get OES data. What are the different ways to obtain OES estimates from this website?" at https://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm.

² The benefit-scaler comes from BLS Employer Costs for Employee Compensation access by menu <http://www.bls.gov/data/> or directly with <http://download.bls.gov/pub/time.series/cm/cm.data.0.Current>. The data series CMU2030000405000P, Private Industry Total benefits for Construction, extraction, farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, is divided by 100 to convert to a decimal value. MSHA used the latest 4-quarter moving average 2017Qtr1-2017Qtr4 to determine that 32.9 percent of total loaded wages are benefits. MSHA computes the scaling factor with a number of detailed calculations but it may be approximated with the formula and values $1 + (\text{benefit percentage}/(1-\text{benefit percentage})) = 1 + (.329/(1-.329)) = 1.49$.

³ Wage inflation is the change in Series ID: CIS2020000405000I; Seasonally adjusted; Series Title: Wages and salaries for Private industry workers in Construction, extraction, farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, Index. (<https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/srgate>; Qtr 1 2018/Qtr 2 2017).

Similarly, the certification documents are required to be available for examination by authorized representatives of the Secretary and representative of miners. They are usually reviewed when a new rock bolting appliance or accessory is being introduced into the mine or an anomalous condition is observed which raises questions about the design of the appliance in use. As a consequence, the number of instances (responses) for receiving and filing certification documents and the number of instances those documents are examined by MSHA inspectors or miners' representatives will vary greatly with the size of the mine and the rate at which the appliances are consumed and repurchased. MSHA has provided estimates of the number of responses consistent with each of the mine types and standards.

Complete inspections are required under section 103(a) of the Mine Act four times per year for underground mines and two times per year for surface mines. MSHA estimates that it takes about three minutes to obtain, file, and show a certification form. For all calculations for question 12 MSHA summed the fractional hours and costs and then rounded at the grand total level.

Section 56.3203(a)(1) & (2) MNM Surface Mines

MSHA estimates that one MNM surface mine obtains two certifications annually. In addition, the mine operator shows these certifications to authorized representatives twice a year. The wage rate⁴ for the authorized representatives is \$60.67.

Burden Hours:

$$1 \text{ mine} \times 2 \text{ times/yr.} \times 3 \text{ min/mine} = 6 \text{ minutes}$$

Hour Burden Cost:

$$6 \text{ minutes} \times \$60.67/\text{hour} = \$6$$

Section 57.3203(a)(1) & (2) MNM Underground Mines

MSHA estimates that about 243 MNM underground mines obtain four certifications annually and that they show these certifications to authorized representatives four times per year.

Burden Hours:

$$243 \text{ mines} \times 4 \text{ times/yr.} \times 3 \text{ min/mine} = 49 \text{ hours}$$

Hour Burden Cost:

$$49 \text{ hours} \times \$60.67/\text{hour} = \$2,949$$

Section 75.204(a)(1) & (2) Underground Coal Mines

MSHA estimates that in 2017 about 208 underground coal mines obtained four certifications annually and that they showed these certifications to authorized

⁴ For MNM mines, the wage is the employment weighted average of the rates for supervisors and managers from the BLS May 2017 OES data for NAICS codes 212200 and 212300. Weighted average rate \$60.67 = \$39.96 x 1.49 benefit adjustment x 1.019 inflation adjustment.

representatives four times per year. The wage rate for the authorized representatives⁵ is \$66.72.

Burden Hours:
208 mines x 4 times/yr. x 3 min/mine = 42 hours

Hour Burden Cost:
42 hours x \$66.72/hour = \$2,776

Section 75.204(f)(6) Underground Coal Mines

Section 75.204(f)(6) requires that the mine operator or a person designated by the operator certify by signature and date the measurements required by paragraph (f)(5) of this section have been made. In 2017, the average number of active producing underground coal mines over a 12 month period was 208. The average number of days per year these mines operated was 285. MSHA estimates that a person, designated by the operator, earning a supervisor’s wage rate of \$82.63 per hour would take 30 seconds to certify by signature and date that the required inspection was done. The wage rate⁶ for the authorized representatives is \$82.63.

Burden Hours:
208 mines x 285 days/year x 30 seconds/certification = 494 hours

Hour Burden Cost:
494 hours x \$82.63/hour = \$40,819

Summary of Burden Hours and Hour Burden Costs

Provision	Respondents*	Responses	Minutes per Response	Hours**	Total Cost
56.3203 M/NM Surface	1	2	3	.1	\$6
57.3203 M/NM Underground	243	972	3	49	\$2,949
75.204(a)(1) Coal Underground	208	832	3	42	\$2,776
75.204(f)(6) Coal Underground	208	59,280	3	494	\$40,819

⁵ For coal mines, the wage is the employment weighted average of the rates for supervisors and managers from the BLS May 2017 OES data for NAICS codes 212100. Weighted average rate \$67.72 = \$43.94 x 1.49 benefit adjustment x 1.019 inflation adjustment.

⁶ For coal mines, the wage rate for the person signing to verify is the employment weighted average of the 75th percentile rates for supervisors and managers from the BLS May 2017 OES data for NAICS codes 212100. Weighted average rate \$82.63 = \$54.42 x 1.49 benefit adjustment x 1.019 inflation adjustment.

TOTAL	452	61,086		585	\$46,550
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*Only unique respondents are included in the summation.

**Minutes are summed at the line item, summed to the Total line, and then rounded.

Displayed values may not sum due to rounding.

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden already reflected on the burden worksheet).

*** The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life) and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.**

*** If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collections services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**

*** Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

MSHA does not anticipate that there will be any costs to respondents or record keepers associated with this information collection.

14. Provide estimates of annualized costs to the Federal government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies may also aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table

The inspecting of roof and rock bolts is just one aspect of a mine inspection. Complete inspections are required under section 103(a) of the Mine Act four times per year for

underground mines and two times per year for surface mines. An inspector's review of the manufacturer's certification is estimated to take about 3 minutes per inspection per mine. The average salary, including benefits, of an inspector is \$55.25 per hour.⁷ The recurring cost to the Federal Government is estimated to be:

MNM Surface Mines

1 mine x 2 inspections/year x 3 min/inspection x \$55.25/hour = \$6

MNM Underground Mines

231 mines x 4 inspection/year x 3 min/inspection x \$55.25/hour = \$2,553

Coal Underground Mines

208 mines x 4 inspection/year x 3 min/inspection x \$55.25 /hour = \$2,298

Total Costs for Federal Mine Inspectors = \$4,857.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported on the burden worksheet.

Itemized Changes in Annual Burden Hours

Regulation Provision/ Data collection Activity	Hours currently on OMB Inventory	Hours in this Request	Difference
56.3203/ M/NM Surface	1	0.1	-0.9
57.3203/ M/NM Underground	49	49	0
75.204(a)(1) / Coal Underground	60	42	-18
75.204(f)(6)/ Coal Underground	428	494	66
TOTAL	537	585	48

The reason for the decreases is directly related to the decrease in the number of active mines.

Responses: There was a decrease of 26,588 responses (from 87,674 to 61,086).

⁷ Hourly rate developed from office of Personnel Management (OPM), December 2017 *FedScope* employment cube, <http://www.fedscope.opm.gov/>. Data search qualifiers were: Agency = DLMS, Occupation = 18xx, Work Schedule = Full-Time, Salary Grade = GS-12, Measure = Average Salary. The hourly wage is the annual salary divided by 2,087. In order to include the cost of benefits, MSHA multiplied the average annual salary by a federal benefit scaler for MSHA of 1.392 (FY 2019 budget submission). Rate equals \$55.25 = (\$82,839 / 2,087 x 1.392).

Respondents: There was a decrease of 392 respondents (from 844 to 452).

Burden Hours: There was an increase of 48 burden hours (from 537 to 585) due to calculation error.

Costs: The cost of \$0 remains unchanged.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

MSHA does not intend to publish the results of this information collection.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

MSHA associates no forms with this information collection.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions."

There are no certification exceptions identified with this information collection.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

As statistical analysis is not required by the regulation, questions 1 through 5 do not apply.

Federal Mine Safety & Health Act of 1977, Public Law 91-173,
as amended by Public Law 95-164

MANDATORY SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS

SEC. 101. (a) The Secretary shall by rule in accordance with procedures set forth in this section and in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code (without regard to any reference in such section to sections 556 and 557 of such title), develop, promulgate, and revise as may be appropriate, improved mandatory health or safety standards for the protection of life and prevention of injuries in coal or other mines.

(1) Whenever the Secretary, upon the basis of information submitted to him in writing by an interested person, a representative of any organization of employers or employees, a nationally recognized standards-producing organization, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or a State or political subdivision, or on the basis of information developed by the Secretary or otherwise available to him, determines that a rule should be promulgated in order to serve the objectives of this Act, the Secretary may request the recommendation of an advisory committee appointed under section 102(c). The Secretary shall provide such an advisory committee with any proposals of his own or of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, together with all pertinent factual information developed by the Secretary or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, or otherwise available, including the results of research, demonstrations, and experiments. An advisory committee shall submit to the Secretary its recommendations regarding the rule to be promulgated within 60 days from the date of its appointment or within such longer or shorter period as may be prescribed by the Secretary, but in no event for a period which is longer than 180 days. When the Secretary receives a recommendation, accompanied by appropriate criteria, from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health that a rule be promulgated, modified, or revoked, the Secretary must, within 60 days after receipt thereof, refer such recommendation to an advisory committee pursuant to this paragraph, or publish such as a proposed rule pursuant to paragraph (2), or publish in the Federal Register his determination not to do so, and his reasons therefor. The Secretary shall be required to request the recommendations of an advisory committee appointed under section 102(c) if the rule to be promulgated is, in the discretion of the Secretary which shall be final, new in effect or application and has significant economic impact.

* * * * *

INSPECTIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RECORDKEEPING

SEC. 103. (a) Authorized representatives of the Secretary or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall make frequent inspections and investigations in coal or other mines each year for the purpose of (1) obtaining, utilizing, and disseminating information relating to health and safety conditions, the causes of accidents, and the causes of diseases and physical impairments originating in such mines, (2) gathering information with respect to mandatory health or safety standards, (3) determining whether an imminent danger exists, and (4) determining whether there is compliance with the mandatory health or safety standards or with any citation, order, or decision

issued under this title or other requirements of this Act. In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, no advance notice of an inspection shall be provided to any person, except that in carrying out the requirements of clauses (1) and (2) of this subsection, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare may give advance notice of inspections. In carrying out the requirements of clauses (3) and (4) of this subsection, the Secretary shall make inspections of each underground coal or other mine in its entirety at least four times a year, and of each surface coal or other mine in its entirety at least two times a year. The Secretary shall develop guidelines for additional inspections of mines based on criteria including, but not limited to, the hazards found in mines subject to this Act, and his experience under this Act and other health and safety laws. For the purpose of making any inspection or investigation under this Act, the Secretary, or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, with respect to fulfilling his responsibilities under this Act, or any authorized representative of the Secretary or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, shall have a right of entry to, upon, or through any coal or other mine. ...

(h) In addition to such records as are specifically required by this Act, every operator of a coal or other mine shall establish and maintain such records, make such reports, and provide such information, as the Secretary or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare may reasonably require from time to time to enable him to perform his functions under this Act. The Secretary or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is authorized to compile, analyze, and publish, either in summary or detailed form, such reports or information so obtained. Except to the extent otherwise specifically provided by this Act, all records, information, reports, findings, citations, notices, orders, or decisions required or issued pursuant to or under this Act may be published from time to time, may be released to any interested person, and shall be made available for public inspection.

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30 CFR Part 56 Subpart B – Ground Control

Section 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 area shall be limited to persons necessary to conduct the test.

* * *

(h) When other tensioned and nontensioned fixtures are used, test methods shall be established to verify their effectiveness.

(i) The mine operator shall certify that tests were conducted and make the certification available to an authorized representative of the Secretary.

30 CFR Part 57 Subpart B – Ground Control

Section 57.3203 Rock fixtures.

(a) When rock bolts and accessories addressed in ASTM F432-83, "Standard Specification for Roof and Rock Bolts and Accessories", are used for ground support, the mine operator shall--

(1) Obtain a manufacturer's certification that the material was manufactured and tested in accordance with the specifications of ASTM F432-83; and,

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

(b) Fixtures and accessories not addressed in ASTM F432-83 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 area shall be limited to persons necessary to conduct the test.

* * *

(h) When other tensioned and nontensioned fixtures are used, test methods shall be established and used to verify their effectiveness.

(i) The mine operator shall certify that tests were conducted and make the certification available to an authorized representative of the Secretary.

30 CFR PART 75 Subpart C – Roof Support

Section 75.204 Roof bolting.

(a) For roof 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) Roof bolts and accessories not addressed in ASTM F432-95 may be used, provided that the use of such materials is approved by the District Manager based on

- (1) Demonstrations which show that the materials have successfully supported the roof in an area of a coal mine with similar strata, opening dimensions and roof stresses; or
- (2) Tests which show the materials to be effective for supporting the roof in an area of the affected mine which has similar strata, opening dimensions and roof stresses as the area where the roof bolts are to be used. During the test process, access to the test area shall be limited to persons necessary to conduct the test.

* * *

(5) In working places from which coal is produced during any portion of a 24-hour period, the actual torque or tension on at least one out of every ten previously installed mechanically anchored tensioned roof bolts shall be measured from the outby corner of the last open crosscut to the face in each advancing section. Corrective action shall be taken if the majority of the bolts measured--

(f)(5)(i) Do not maintain at least 70 percent of the minimum torque or tension specified

in the roof control plan, 50 percent if the roof bolt plates bear against wood; or

(f)(5)(ii) Have exceeded the maximum specified torque or tension by 50 percent.

(6) The mine operator or a person designated by the operator shall certify by signature and date that measurements required by paragraph (f)(5) of this section have been made. This certification shall be maintained for at least one year and shall be made available to an authorized representative of the Secretary and representatives of the miners.

* * * * *