

Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

OMB Control Number: 1219 - 0140

Information Collection Title: High-Voltage Continuous Mining Machine Standards for Underground Coal Mines

Collection Instruments/ Form Number(s): None

Authority: 30 CFR 75.829, 75.831, and 75.832

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 of each 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.

Current requirements in 30 CFR Part 75 provide for the safe use of High Voltage Continuous Mining Machines (HVCMM) for those underground coal mine operators that choose to use an HVCMM.

Sections 75.829(b)(1), and 75.832(a), (b), (c), and (g)(1) through (g)(3) contain requirements for examination, maintenance, and recordkeeping on HVCMMs to reduce fire, electrical shock, ignition, and operational hazards.

Section 75.829(b)(1) requires that, prior to tramming the HVCCM, a qualified person must activate certain circuits to ensure that the corresponding circuit interrupting device opens the circuit.

Section 75.831 specifies safe procedures to be followed when performing electrical work on highvoltage trailing cables or on a high-voltage continuous mining machine. Paragraph (a) requires tagging prior to performing electrical work on the trailing cable or continuous mining machine. Tagging alerts other miners that work is being done on the circuit. Section 75.831(b) requires tagging prior to testing and troubleshooting trailing cables. Section 75.831(d) requires tagging of the high-voltage circuit prior to troubleshooting or testing a low- or medium-voltage circuit contained in an enclosure with exposed high-voltage conductors or parts.

Section 75.832(g) requires that: (1) the person administering the test record each test made and any unsafe condition found; (2) the person taking the corrective action record any corrective action taken; and (3) the mine foreman or equivalent mine official countersign the record.

Section 75.832(g)(1) requires that at the completion of examinations and tests required by sections 75.832(a), (b), and (c), the person conducting the examinations and tests certify by signature and date that they have been conducted and record any unsafe condition found; and (g)(2) requires that any corrective actions must be recorded by the person taking the corrective action. Section 75.832(c) requires a test of the ground-wire monitor circuit at least once every seven days.

According to section 75.832(g)(3), records are required to be made from the examinations and tests under sections 75.832(a), (b), and (c) be countersigned by the mine foreman or equivalent mine official by the end of the mine foreman's or the equivalent mine official's next regularly scheduled working shift.

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 respondents for the paperwork provisions of this collection are mine operators that elect to use HVCMMs to cut and load coal in underground coal mines. The information collection requirement concerns the countersigning of records, the completion of the record of any unsafe condition found, and any record made of other substantive requirements. The records will be used by coal mine supervisors and employees, State mine inspectors, and Federal mine inspectors. The records will show that the mine operators conducted examinations and tests and will give insight into the hazardous conditions that they have encountered and those that they may encounter. The records of inspections greatly assist those who use them in making decisions that will ultimately affect the safety of miners working with HVCMMs.

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.

This collection of information requires that mine operators maintain the records in a secure book that is not susceptible to alteration or electronically in a computer system that is secure and not susceptible to alteration. MSHA encourages operators who store records electronically to provide a mechanism that will allow the continued storage and retrieval of records. No other 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 purpose(s) described in 2 above.

Sections 75.829(b)(1), 75.831, and 75.832(a) through (c) and (g)(1) through (g)(3) contain requirements for examination maintenance, and recordkeeping on HVCMMs to reduce fire, electrical shock, ignition, and operational hazards. To avoid duplication, this burden is not included in another information collection request.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

In accordance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act and its amendments at 5 U.S.C. 605(b), MSHA has determined that this collection of information will not have a significant adverse economic impact on a substantial number of 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.

To prevent fire, explosion, and electrocution hazards when using HVCMMs in underground mines, mine operators using such equipment are required to conduct examinations and tests that must be supported by records that are certified by signature and date that identify any unsafe condition found and that it has been corrected. These regulations also call for tagging and locking out the plug to the power receptacle. Further reduction of these requirements could result in increased hazards to miners. The frequency of examinations and testing of highvoltage trailing cables and HVCMMs, and associated record keeping requirements are the minimum necessary requirements to ensure the safe operating conditions of HVCMMs.

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, rant-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 secret, 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.**

This collection is consistent with the guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5.

8. Federal Register Notice:

Provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice 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 31, 2019 (84 FR 37351). 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 the respondents.

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

No assurance of confidentiality is 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 in Item 13.

MSHA calculated hourly wages using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics (OES). 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 retrieved from <https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/srgate>. Benefits are included by MSHA using the latest 4-quarter average of the data series MU2030000405000P, Private Industry Total benefits for Construction, extraction, farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.

As of 2019, operators of 3 mines are currently using 13 HVCMMs throughout the nation.

30 CFR 75.829 – Certifying, Recording, and Countersigning Burden

Section 75.829(b)(1) requires that, prior to tramming the HVCMM, a qualified person must activate the ground-fault and ground-wire monitor test circuits of the power sources specified in paragraph (c) of this section. Thus, the power sources must pass a functional test of the ground-wire fault and ground-wire monitor circuits. In accordance with section 75.832(g)(1) certifications by signature and date must be made after the test required by section 75.829(b)(1) is conducted. MSHA estimates that, on average, a mine electrician, earning \$44.86 per hour¹, takes 3 minutes to certify by signature and date.

Any unsafe condition found must be recorded along with any corrective action taken in accordance with section 75.832(g)(2). MSHA estimates that a mine electrician will make a corrective action record twice a year and will take an average of 6 minutes to make a record. In accordance with section 75.832(g)(3) the record must be countersigned by the mine foreman or equivalent mine official by the end of the mine foreman's or the equivalent mine official's next regularly scheduled shift. MSHA estimates that a mine foreman or equivalent mine official, earning \$61.00 per hour², will take an additional 6 minutes to countersign the record.

Burden Hours for Certifying and Making a Record

¹ Electrician wage rate \$44.86 = OES hourly rate \$29.52 x benefit multiplier 1.49 x inflation adjustment 1.02.

² Foreman wage rate \$61.00 = OES rate \$40.14 x benefit multiplier 1.49 x inflation adjustment 1.02.

13 HVCMMs x 2 corrective actions x 3 min to certify	= 1 hours
13 HVCMMs x 2 corrective actions x 6 min to record	= <u>3 hours</u>
Total Burden Hours	= 4 hours

Hour Burden Cost for Certifying and Making a Record

4 hours x \$44.86 per hour	= \$179
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Burden Hours to Countersign Record

26 records [(13 HVCMMs x 2)] x 6 min	= 3 hours
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Hour Burden Cost to Countersign Record

3 hours x \$61.00 per hour	= \$183
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30 CFR 75.832(g)(1),(2) & (3) - Certifying, Recording and Countersigning Burden

Section 75.832(c) requires a test of the ground-wire monitor circuit at least once every seven days. An electrician conducts the ground-wire monitor test, noted in paragraph (c), on the power station. MSHA assumes that there is one power station per HVCMM. Section 75.832 (g)(1) and (g)(2) require certification by signature and date as well as recording of corrective actions for these tests. MSHA estimates that, on average, a mine electrician, earning \$44.86 per hour, takes 3 minutes to certify by signature and date and 6 minutes to make a record of any corrective actions. MSHA estimates that an electrician will need to make a corrective action record twice a year. Section 75.832(g)(3) requires that the record must be countersigned by the mine foreman or equivalent mine official by the end of the mine foreman's or the equivalent mine official's next regularly scheduled shift. MSHA estimates that a mine foreman or equivalent mine official, earning \$61.00 per hour, will take an additional 6 minutes to countersign the record.

Burden Hours for Certifying and Making a Record

13 HVCMMs x 52 tests x 3 min to certify	= 34 hours
13 HVCMMs x 2 corrective actions x 6 min to record	= <u>3 hours</u>
Total Burden Hours	= 37 hours

Hour Burden Cost for Certifying and Making a Record

37 hours x \$44.86 per hour	= \$1,660
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Burden Hours to Countersign Record

26 records [(13 HVCMMs x 2)] x 6 min	= 3 hours
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Hour Burden Cost to Countersign Record

3 hours x \$61.00 per hour	= \$183
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30 CFR 75.831- Burden Related to Tagging Equipment

Section 75.831 requires tagging prior to: performing electrical work on high-voltage trailing cables or the continuous mining machine (under paragraph (a)); troubleshooting

and testing trailing cables (under paragraph (b)); and work that is performed inside any compartment of the power center (under paragraph (d)).

On average, MSHA estimates that one of the tagging requirements will occur for each of the 13 HVCMMs on each of the 312 workdays per year. On average, MSHA estimates that tagging, by a mine electrician earning \$44.86 per hour, will take 1.5 minutes.

Annual burden hours and cost related to underground coal mine operators for tagging equipment under section 75.831 is as follows.

Burden Hours for Tagging Equipment	
13 HVCMMs x 312 days x 1.5 min to certify	= 101 hours
Hour Burden Cost for Tagging Equipment	
101 hours x \$44.86 per hour	= \$4,531
Total Burden Hours	= 148 hours
Total Hour Burden Cost	= \$6,736
Total Responses	= 4,810
Total Respondents	= 3

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers 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 collection 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.

There is no annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from this collection of information.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost 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 also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.

No Federal inspection costs have been associated specifically with this information collection.

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

The number of respondents, which is based on the number of mines, increased from 2 to 3. The number of HVCMMs remained constant so the number of responses remained at 4,810 and the number of burden hours remained at 148 hours. Costs to respondents and record-keepers remain at \$0.

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 associated with this collection.

18. Explain each exception to the topics of 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

The collection of this information does not employ statistical methods.