

75.503 to increase the maximum length of trailing cables supplying power to permissible equipment used in continuous mining sections.

Specifically, the petitioner requests a modification of 30 CFR 18.35(a)(5)(i) to permit an increase in the maximum length of trailing cables supplying power to roof bolters beyond 500 feet. The petitioner asserts this alternate method of compliance will decrease the likelihood of cable damage and therefore enhance safety for miners handling the cable.

The petitioner states that:

(a) Increasing the length of cable supplying power to the roof bolter machines will reduce the frequency that a section power center must be advanced, and thus, lessen handling of the cable, decrease the opportunities for cable damage, and minimize exposure to the miners handling the cable.

The petitioner proposes the following:

(a) This petition shall apply only to trailing cables supplying three-phase, 995-volt power to roof bolters.

(b) The maximum length of the 995-volt trailing cables shall be 950 feet.

(c) The 995-volt trailing cables shall not be smaller than #2 American Wire Gauge (AWG).

(d) A Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories 751A (“SEL-751A”) overcurrent protection relay will be used, and a designated official of Patton Mining, LLC shall manage the password protected settings.

(e) All circuit breakers used to protect #2 AWG trailing cables exceeding 700 feet in length shall have instantaneous trip units calibrated to trip at 800 amperes. The trip setting of these circuit breakers shall be password protected, and these circuit breakers shall have permanent, legible labels. Each label shall identify the circuit breaker as being suitable for protecting #2 AWG cables. This label shall be maintained legible.

(f) Replacement instantaneous trip units that are used to protect #2 AWG trailing cables, shall be calibrated to trip at 800 amperes, and this setting shall be password protected.

(g) During each production day, persons designated by the operator shall visually examine the trailing cables to ensure that the cables are in safe operating condition.

(h) Any trailing cable that is not in safe operating condition shall be removed from service immediately and shall be repaired or replaced.

(i) Each splice or repair in the trailing cables shall be made in a workmanlike manner and in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the splice or repair materials. The splice or

repair shall comply with 30 CFR 75.603 and 75.604.

(j) Permanent warning labels shall be installed and maintained on the cover(s) of the power center identifying the location of each password protected short-circuit protection device. These labels shall warn miners not to change or alter the short-circuit settings.

(k) The petitioner’s alternate method shall not be implemented until miners designated to examine the integrity of the settings, verify the short-circuit settings, examine trailing cables for defects and damage according to the proper procedure have received specified training.

(l) Within sixty (60) days after this petition is granted, the petitioner shall propose revisions to the mine’s training plans approved under 30 CFR part 48 and submit the proposed revisions to the Coal Mine Safety and Health District Manager for the area where the mine is located. The training shall include the following elements:

1. Training in mining methods and operating procedures that will protect the trailing cables against damage;

2. Training in the proper procedures for examining the trailing cables to ensure the cables are in safe operating condition;

3. Training in hazards of setting the instantaneous circuit breakers too high to adequately protect the trailing cables; and

4. Training in how to verify the circuit interrupting device(s) protecting the trailing cable(s) are properly set and maintained.

The petitioner asserts that the alternate method proposed will at all times guarantee no less than the same measure of protection afforded the miners under the mandatory standards.

Song-ae Aromie Noe,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

[OMB Control No. 1219-0120]

Proposed Extension of Information Collection; Occupational Noise Exposure

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce

paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments on the information collection for Occupational Noise Exposure.

DATES: All comments must be received on or before July 9, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comment as follows. Please note that late, untimely filed comments will not be considered.

Electronic Submissions: Submit electronic comments in the following way:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments for docket number MSHA-2021-0004. Comments submitted electronically, including attachments, to <https://www.regulations.gov> will be posted to the docket, with no changes. Because your comment will be made public, you are responsible for ensuring that your comment does not include any confidential information that you or a third party may not wish to be posted, such as your or anyone else’s Social Security number or confidential business information.

- If you want to submit a comment with confidential information that you do not wish to be made available to the public, submit the comment as a written/paper submission.

Written/Paper Submissions: Submit written/paper submissions in the following way:

- *Mail/Hand Delivery:* Mail or visit DOL-MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202-5452.

- MSHA will post your comment as well as any attachments, except for information submitted and marked as confidential, in the docket at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: S. Aromie Noe, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at MSHA.information.collections@dol.gov

(email); (202) 693-9440 (voice); or (202) 693-9441 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 103(h) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C. 813(h), authorizes 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 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 or other mines.

Noise is a harmful physical agent and one of the most pervasive health hazards in mining. Repeated exposure to high levels of sound over time causes occupational noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL), a serious physical impairment with far-reaching psychological and social effects. NIHL can be distinguished from aging and other factors that can contribute to hearing loss and it can be prevented. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIHL is among the "top ten" leading occupational illnesses and injuries.

At mines, various machines that generate loud sounds are used, such as drills, crushers, compressors, conveyors, trucks, loaders, and other heavy-duty equipment for the excavation, haulage, and processing of materials. The operators of these machines and miners working nearby are exposed to the high sound levels. For many years, NIHL was regarded as an inevitable consequence of working in a mine, but that is no longer the case. MSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the U.S. military, and other organizations around the world have established and enforced standards to reduce the loss of hearing. Quieter equipment, isolation of workers from noise sources, and limiting the time workers are exposed to noise are among the many well-accepted methods that will prevent costly incidences of NIHL.

Records of miner exposures to noise are necessary so that mine operators and MSHA can evaluate the need for and effectiveness of engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment to protect miners from harmful levels of noise that can result in hearing loss. However, MSHA believes that extensive records for this purpose are not needed. These requirements are a performance-oriented approach to monitoring. Records of miner hearing examinations enable mine operators and MSHA to

ensure that the controls are effective in preventing NIHL for individual miners. Records of training are needed to confirm that miners receive the information they need to become active participants in hearing conservation efforts.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

MSHA is soliciting comments concerning the proposed information collection related to Occupational Noise Exposure. MSHA is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information has practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of MSHA's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Suggest methods to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Background documents related to this information collection request are available at <https://regulations.gov> and in DOL-MSHA located at 201 12th Street South, Suite 4E401, Arlington, VA 22202-5452. Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

III. Current Actions

This information collection request concerns provisions for Occupational Noise Exposure. MSHA has updated the data with respect to the number of respondents, responses, burden hours, and burden costs supporting this information collection request from the previous information collection request.

Type of Review: Extension, without change, of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration.

OMB Number: 1219-0120.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents: 12,929.

Frequency: On occasion.

Number of Responses: 190,001.

Annual Burden Hours: 14,153 hours.

Annual Respondent or Recordkeeper Cost: \$30,585.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the proposed information collection request; they will become a matter of public record and will be available at <https://www.reginfo.gov>.

Song-ae Aromie Noe,
Certifying Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. OSHA-2007-0041]

FM Approvals LLC: Grant of Expansion of Recognition and Modification to the NRTL Program's List of Appropriate Test Standards

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In this notice, OSHA announces the final decision to expand the scope of recognition for FM Approvals LLC for expansion of recognition as a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). Additionally, OSHA announces the final decision to modify the NRTL Program's List of Appropriate Test Standards to include one additional test standard.

DATES: The expansion of the scope of recognition become effective on May 10, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information regarding this notice is available from the following sources:

Press inquiries: Contact Mr. Frank Meilinger, Director, OSHA Office of Communications, U.S. Department of Labor, telephone: (202) 693-1999; email: meilinger.francis2@dol.gov.

General and technical information: Contact Mr. Kevin Robinson, Director, Office of Technical Programs and Coordination Activities, Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, phone: (202) 693-2110 or email: robinson.kevin@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Notice of Final Decision

OSHA hereby gives notice of the expansion of the scope of recognition of FM Approvals LLC (FM) as a NRTL. This expansion covers the addition of five test standards to FM's NRTL scope