

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Public Law 91-173, as amended by Public Law 95-164) is provided below solely for historic value. The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 was amended on June 15, 2006 by The Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-236, as amended by Public Law 109-280). The current statutory provisions for the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended by the MINER Act of 2006, are available at www.msha.gov/regs/ACT/MinerAct2006home.asp.

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

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 318. For the purpose of this title and title II of this Act, the term--

- (a) "certified" or "registered" as applied to any person means a person certified or registered by the State in which the coal mine is located to perform duties prescribed by such titles, except that, in a State where no program of certification or registration is provided or where the program does not meet at least minimum Federal standards established by the Secretary, such certification or registration shall be by the Secretary;
- (b) "qualified person" means, as the context requires,
 - (1) an individual deemed qualified by the Secretary and designated by the operator to make tests and examinations required by this Act; and
 - (2) an individual deemed, in accordance with minimum requirements to be established by the Secretary, qualified by training, education, and experience, to perform electrical work, to maintain electrical equipment, and to conduct examinations and tests of all electrical equipment;
- (c) "permissible" as applied to--
 - (1) equipment used in the operation of a coal mine, means equipment, other than permissible electric face equipment, to which an approval plate, label, or other device is attached as authorized by the Secretary and which meets specifications which are prescribed by the Secretary for the construction and maintenance of such equipment and are designed to assure that such equipment will not cause a mine explosion or a mine fire,
 - (2) explosives, shot firing units, or blasting devices used in such mine, means explosives, shot firing units, or blasting devices which meet specifications which are prescribed by the Secretary, and
 - (3) the manner of use of equipment or explosives, shot firing units, and blasting devices, means the manner of use prescribed by the Secretary;
- (d) "rock dust" means pulverized limestone, dolomite, gypsum, anhydrite, shale, adobe, or other inert material, preferably light colored, 100 per centum of which will pass through a sieve having twenty meshes per linear inch and 70 per centum or more of which will pass through a sieve having two hundred meshes per linear inch; the particles of which when wetted and dried will not cohere to form a cake which will not be dispersed into separate particles by a light blast of air; and which does not contain more than 5 per centum of combustible matter or more than a total of 4 per centum of free and combined silica (SiO₂), or, where the Secretary finds that such silica concentrations are not available, which does not contain more than 5 per centum of free and combined silica;
- (e) "anthracite" means coals with a volatile ratio equal to 0.12 or less;

- (f) "volatile ratio" means volatile matter content divided by the volatile matter plus the fixed carbon;
- (g)(1) "working face" means any place in a coal mine in which work of extracting coal from its natural deposit in the earth is performed during the mining cycle,
- (2) "working place" means the area of a coal mine inby the last open crosscut,
- (3) "working section" means all areas of the coal mine from the loading point of the section to and including the working faces,
- (4) "active workings" means any place in a coal mine where miners are normally required to work or travel;
- (h) "abandoned areas" means sections, panels, and other areas that are not ventilated and examined in the manner required for working places under section 303 of this title;
- (i) "permissible" as applied to electric face equipment means all electrically operated equipment taken into or used inby the last open crosscut of an entry or a room of any coal mine the electrical parts of which, including, but not limited to, associated electrical equipment, components, and accessories, are designed, constructed, and installed, in accordance with the specifications of the Secretary, to assure that such equipment will not cause a mine explosion or mine fire, and the other features of which are designed and constructed, in accordance with the specifications of the Secretary, to prevent, to the greatest extent possible, other accidents in the use of such equipment; and the regulations of the Secretary or the Director of the Bureau of Mines in effect on the operative date of this title relating to the requirements for investigation, testing, approval, certification, and acceptance of such equipment as permissible shall continue in effect until modified or superseded by the Secretary, except that the Secretary shall provide procedures, including, where feasible, testing, approval, certification, and acceptance in the field by an authorized representative of the Secretary, to facilitate compliance by an operator with the requirements of section 305(a) of this title within the periods prescribed therein;
- (j) "low voltage" means up to and including 660 volts; "medium voltage" means voltages from 661 to 1,000 volts; and "high voltage" means more than 1,000 volts;
- (k) [repealed]
- (l) "coal mine" includes areas of adjoining mines connected underground.

TITLE IV--BLACK LUNG BENEFITS

PART A--GENERAL

SEC. 401. Congress finds and declares that there are a significant number of coal miners living today who are totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis arising out of employment in one or more of the Nation's underground coal mines; that there are a number of survivors of coal miners whose deaths were due to this disease; and that few States provide benefits for death or disability due to this disease to coal miners or their surviving dependents. It is, therefore, the purpose of this title to provide benefits, in cooperation with the States, to coal miners who are totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis and to the surviving dependents of miners whose death was due to such disease; and to ensure that in the future adequate benefits are provided to coal miners and their dependents in the event of their death or total disability due to pneumoconiosis.

SEC. 402. For purposes of this title--

- (a) The term "dependent" means a wife or child who is a dependent as that term is defined for purposes of section 8110 of title 5, United States Code.
- (b) The term "pneumoconiosis" means a chronic dust disease of the lung arising out of employment in an underground coal mine.
- (c) The term "Secretary" where used in part B means the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and where used in part C means the Secretary of Labor.
- (d) The term "miner" means any individual who is or was employed in an underground coal mine.
- (e) The term "widow" means the wife living with or dependent for support on the decedent at the time of his death, or living apart for reasonable cause or because of his desertion, who has not remarried.
- (f) The term "total disability" has the meaning given it by regulations of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, but such regulations shall not provide more restrictive criteria than those applicable under section 223(d) of the Social Security Act.

PART B--CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS FILED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1972

SEC. 411. (a) The Secretary shall, in accordance with the provisions of this part, and the regulations promulgated by him under this part, make payments of benefits in respect of total disability of any miner due to pneumoconiosis, and in respect of the death of any miner whose death was due to pneumoconiosis.

(b) The Secretary shall by regulation prescribe standards for determining for purposes of section 411(a) whether a miner is totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis and for determining whether the death of a miner was due to pneumoconiosis. Regulations required by this subsection shall be promulgated and published in the Federal Register at the earliest practicable date after the date of enactment of this title, and in no event later than the end of the third month following the month in which this title is enacted. Such regulations may be modified or additional regulations promulgated from time to time thereafter.

(c) For purposes of this section--

- (1) if a miner who is suffering or suffered from pneumoconiosis was employed for ten years or more in one or more underground coal mines there shall be a rebuttable presumption that his pneumoconiosis arose out of such employment;
- (2) if a deceased miner was employed for ten years or more in one or more underground coal mines and died from a respirable disease there shall be a rebuttable presumption that his death was due to pneumoconiosis; and
- (3) if a miner is suffering or suffered from a chronic dust disease of the lung which (A) when diagnosed by chest roentgenogram, yields one or more large opacities (greater than one centimeter in diameter) and would be classified in category A, B, or C in the International Classification of Radiographs of the Pneumoconioses by the International Labor Organization, (B) when diagnosed by biopsy or autopsy, yields massive lesions in the lung, or (C) when diagnosis is made by other means, would be a condition which could reasonably be expected to yield results described in clause (A) or (B) if diagnosis had been made in the manner prescribed in clause (A) or (B), then there shall be an irrebuttable presumption that he is totally disabled due to pneumoconiosis or that his death was due to pneumoconiosis, as the case may be.

(d) Nothing in subsection (c) shall be deemed to affect the applicability of subsection (a) in the case of a claim where the presumptions provided for therein are inapplicable.

SEC. 412. (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, benefit payments shall be made by the Secretary under this part as follows:

(1) In the case of total disability of a miner due to pneumoconiosis, the disabled miner shall be paid benefits during the disability at a rate equal to 50 per centum of the minimum monthly payment to which a Federal employee in grade GS-2, who is totally disabled, is entitled at the time of payment under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) In the case of death of a miner due to pneumoconiosis or of a miner receiving benefits under this part, benefits shall be paid to his widow (if any) at the rate the deceased miner would receive such benefits if he were totally disabled.

(3) In the case of an individual entitled to benefit payments under clause (1) or (2) of this subsection who has one or more dependents, the benefit payments shall be increased at the rate of 50 per centum of such benefit payments, if such individual has one dependent, 75 per centum if such individual has two dependents, and 100 per centum if such individual has three or more dependents.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), benefit payments under this section to a miner or his widow shall be reduced, on a monthly or other appropriate basis, by an amount equal to any payment received by such miner or his widow under the workmen's compensation, unemployment compensation, or disability insurance laws of his State on account of the disability of such miner, and the amount by which such payment would be reduced on account of excess earnings of such miner under section 203(b) through (1) of the Social Security Act if the amount paid were a benefit payable under section 202 of such Act.

(c) Benefits payable under this part shall be deemed not to be income for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

SEC. 413. (a) Except as otherwise provided in section 414 of this part, no payment of benefits shall be made under this part except pursuant to a claim filed therefor on or before December 31, 1972, in such manner, in such form, and containing such information, as the Secretary shall by regulation prescribe.

(b) In carrying out the provisions of this part, the Secretary shall to the maximum extent feasible (and consistent with the provisions of this part) utilize the personnel and procedures he uses in determining entitlement to disability insurance benefit payments under section 223 of the Social Security Act. Claimants under this part shall be reimbursed for reasonable medical expenses incurred by them in establishing their claims. For purposes of determining total disability under this part, the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (g) of section 221 of such Act shall be applicable.

(c) No claim for benefits under this section shall be considered unless the claimant has also filed a claim under the applicable State workmen's compensation law prior to or at the same time his claim was filed for benefits under this section; except that the foregoing provisions of this paragraph shall not apply in any case in which the filing of a claim under such law would clearly be futile because the period within which such a claim may be filed thereunder has expired or because pneumoconiosis is not compensable under such law, or in any other situation in which, in the opinion of the Secretary, the filing of a claim would clearly be futile.

SEC. 414. (a) No claim for benefits under this part on account of total disability of a miner shall be considered unless it is filed on or before December 31, 1972, or, in the case of a claimant who is a widow, within six months after the death of her husband or by December 31, 1972, whichever is the later.

(b) No benefits shall be paid under this part after December 31, 1972, if the claim therefor was filed after December 31, 1971.

(c) No benefits under this part shall be payable for any period prior to the date a claim therefor is filed.

(d) No benefits shall be paid under this part to the residents of any State which, after the date of enactment of this Act, reduces the benefits payable to persons eligible to receive benefits under this part, under its

State laws which are applicable to its general work force with regard to workmen's compensation, unemployment compensation, or disability insurance.

(e) No benefits shall be payable to a widow under this part on account of the death of a miner unless (1) benefits under this part were being paid to such miner with respect to disability due to pneumoconiosis prior to his death, or (2) the death of such miner occurred prior to January 1, 1973.

PART C--CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1972

SEC. 421. (a) On and after January 1, 1973, any claim for benefits for death or total disability due to pneumoconiosis shall be filed pursuant to the applicable State workmen's compensation law, except that during any period when miners or their surviving widows are not covered by a State workmen's compensation law which provides adequate coverage for pneumoconiosis they shall be entitled to claim benefits under this part.

(b)(1) For purposes of this section, a State workmen's compensation law shall not be deemed to provide adequate coverage for pneumoconiosis during any period unless it is included in the list of State laws found by the Secretary to provide such adequate coverage during such period. The Secretary shall, no later than October 1, 1972, publish in the Federal Register a list of State workmen's compensation laws which provide adequate coverage for pneumoconiosis and shall revise and republish in the Federal Register such list from time to time, as may be appropriate to reflect changes in such State laws due to legislation or judicial or administrative interpretation.

(2) The Secretary shall include a State workmen's compensation law on such list during any period only if he finds that during such period under such law--

- (A) benefits must be paid for total disability or death of a miner due to pneumoconiosis;
- (B) the amount of such cash benefits is substantially equivalent to or greater than the amount of benefits prescribed by section 412(a) of this title;
- (C) the standards for determining death or total disability due to pneumoconiosis are substantially equivalent to those established by section 411, and by the regulations of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare promulgated thereunder;
- (D) any claim for benefits on account of total disability or death of a miner due to pneumoconiosis is deemed to be timely filed if such claim is filed within three years of the discovery of total disability due to pneumoconiosis, or the date of such death, as the case may be;
- (E) there are in effect provisions with respect to prior and successor operators which are substantially equivalent to the provisions contained in section 422(i) of this part; and
- (F) there are applicable such other provisions, regulations or interpretations, which are consistent with the provisions contained in Public Law 803, 69th Congress (44 Stat. 1424, approved March 4, 1927), as amended, which are applicable under section 422(a), but are not inconsistent with any of the criteria set forth in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of this paragraph, as the Secretary, in accordance with regulations promulgated by him, determines to be necessary or appropriate to assure adequate compensation for total disability or death due to pneumoconiosis. The action of the Secretary in including or failing to include any State workmen's compensation law on such list shall be subject to judicial review exclusively in the United States court of appeals for the circuit in which the State is located or the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

SEC. 422. (a) During any period after December 31, 1972, in which a State workmen's compensation law is not included on the list published by the Secretary under section 421(b) of this part, the provisions of Public Law 803, 69th Congress (44 Stat. 1424, approved March 4, 1927), as amended (other than the provisions contained in sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51 thereof) shall (except as otherwise provided in this subsection and except as the Secretary shall by regulation otherwise provide), be applicable to each operator of an underground coal mine in such State with respect to death or total disability due to pneumoconiosis arising out of employment in such mine. In administering this part, the Secretary is authorized to prescribe in the Federal

Register such additional provisions, not inconsistent with those specifically excluded by this subsection, as he deems necessary to provide for the payment of benefits by such operator to persons entitled thereto as provided in this part and thereafter those provisions shall be applicable to such operator.

(b) During any such period each such operator shall be liable for and shall secure the payment of benefits, as provided in this section and section 423 of this part.

(c) Benefits shall be paid during such period by each such operator under this section to the categories of persons entitled to benefits under section 412(a) of this title in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare applicable under this section: Provided, That, except as provided in subsection (i) of this section, no benefit shall be payable by any operator on account of death or total disability due to pneumoconiosis which did not arise, at least in part, out of employment in a mine during the period when it was operated by such operator.

(d) Benefits payable under this section shall be paid on a monthly basis and, except as otherwise provided in this section, such payments shall be equal to the amounts specified in section 412(a) of this title.

(e) No payment of benefits shall be required under this section:

- (1) except pursuant to a claim filed therefor in such manner, in such form, and containing such information, as the Secretary shall by regulation prescribe;
- (2) for any period prior to January 1, 1973; or
- (3) for any period after seven years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) Any claim for benefits under this section shall be filed within three years of the discovery of total disability due. to pneumoconiosis or, in the case of death due to pneumoconiosis, the date of such death.

(g) The amount of benefits payable under this section shall be reduced, on a monthly or other appropriate basis, by the amount of any compensation received under or pursuant to any Federal or State workmen's compensation law because of death or disability due to pneumoconiosis.

(h) The regulations of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare promulgated under section 411 of this title shall also be applicable to claims under this section. The Secretary of Labor shall by regulation establish standards, which may include appropriate presumptions, for determining whether pneumoconiosis arose out of employment in a particular underground coal mine or mines. The Secretary may also, by regulation, establish standards for apportioning liability for benefits under this subsection among more than one operator, where such apportionment is appropriate.

(i)(1) During any period in which this section is applicable with respect to a coal mine an operator of such mine who, after the date of enactment of this title, acquired such mine or substantially all the assets thereof from a person (hereinafter referred to in this paragraph as a "prior operator") who was an operator of such mine on or after the operative date of this title shall be liable for and shall, in accordance with section 423 of this part, secure the payment of all benefits which would have been payable by the prior operator under this section with respect to miners previously employed in such mine if the acquisition had not occurred and the prior operator had continued to operate such mine.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall relieve any prior operator of any liability under this section.

SEC. 423. (a) During any period in which a State workmen's compensation law is not included on the list published by the Secretary under section 421(b) each operator of an underground coal mine in such State shall secure the payment of benefits for which he is liable under section 422 by (1) qualifying as a self-insurer in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary, or (2) insuring and keeping insured the payment of such benefits with any stock company or mutual company or association, or with any other person or fund, including any State fund, while such company, association, person or fund is authorized under the laws of any State to insure workmen's compensation.

(b) In order to meet the requirements of clause (2) of subsection (a) of this section, every policy or contract of insurance must contain--

- (1) a provision to pay benefits required under section 422, notwithstanding the provisions of the State workmen's compensation law which may provide for lesser payments;
- (2) a provision that insolvency or bankruptcy of the operator or discharge therein (or both) shall not relieve the carrier from liability for such payments; and
- (3) such other provisions as the Secretary, by regulation, may require.

(c) No policy or contract of insurance issued by a carrier to comply with the requirements of clause (2) of subsection (a) of this subsection shall be canceled prior to the date specified in such policy or contract for its expiration until at least thirty days have elapsed after notice of cancellation has been sent by registered or certified mail to the Secretary and to the operator at his last known place of business.

SEC. 424. If a totally disabled miner or a widow is entitled to benefits under section 422 and (1) an operator liable for such benefits has not obtained a policy or contract of insurance, or qualified as a self-insurer, as required by section 423, or such operator has not paid such benefits within a reasonable time, or (2) there is no operator who was required to secure the payment of such benefits, the Secretary shall pay such miner or such widow the benefits to which he or she is so entitled. In a case referred to in clause (1), the operator shall be liable to the United States in a civil action in an amount equal to the amount paid to such miner or his widow under this title.

SEC. 425. With the consent and cooperation of State agencies charged with administration of State workmen's compensation laws, the Secretary may, for the purpose of carrying out his functions and duties under section 422, utilize the services of State and local agencies and their employees and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may advance funds to or reimburse such State and local agencies and their employees for services rendered for such purposes.

SEC. 426. (a) The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare are authorized to issue such regulations as each deems appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title. Such regulations shall be issued in conformity with section 553 of title 5 of the United States Code, notwithstanding subsection (a) thereof.

(b) Within 120 days following the convening of each session of Congress the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall submit to the Congress an annual report upon the subject matter of part B of this title, and, after January 1, 1973, the Secretary of Labor shall also submit such a report upon the subject matter of part C of this title.

(c) Nothing in this title shall relieve any operator of the duty to comply with any State workmen's compensation law, except insofar as such State law is in conflict with the provisions of this title and the Secretary by regulation, so prescribes. The provisions of any State workmen's compensation law which provide greater benefits than the benefits payable under this title shall not thereby be construed or held to be in conflict with the provisions of this title.

TITLE V--ADMINISTRATION

RESEARCH

SEC. 501. (a) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, as appropriate, shall conduct such studies, research, experiments, and demonstrations as may be appropriate--

- (1) to improve working conditions and practices in coal or other mines, and to prevent accidents and occupational diseases originating in the coal or other mining industry;
- (2) to develop new or improved methods of recovering persons in coal or other mines after an accident;

- (3) to develop new or improved means and methods of communication from the surface to the underground area of a coal or other mine;
- (4) to develop new or improved means and methods of reducing concentrations of respirable dust in the mine atmosphere of active workings of the coal or other mine;
- (5) to develop epidemiological information to (A) identify and define positive factors involved in occupational diseases of miners, (B) provide information on the incidence and prevalence of pneumoconiosis and other respiratory ailments of miners, and (C) improve mandatory health standards;
- (6) to develop techniques for the prevention and control of occupational diseases of miners, including tests for hypersusceptibility and early detection;
- (7) to evaluate the effect on bodily impairment and occupational disability of miners afflicted with an occupational disease;
- (8) to prepare and publish from time to time, reports on all significant aspects of occupational diseases of miners as well as on the medical aspects of injuries, other than diseases, which are revealed by the research carried on pursuant to this subsection;
- (9) to study the relationship between coal or other mine environments and occupational diseases of miners;
- (10) to develop new and improved underground equipment and other sources of power for such equipment which will provide greater safety;
- (11) to determine, upon the written request by any operator or authorized representative of miners, specifying with reasonable particularity the grounds upon which such request is made, whether any substance normally found in a coal or other mine has potentially toxic effects in the concentrations normally found in the coal or other mine or whether any physical agents or equipment found or used in a coal or other mine has potentially hazardous effects, and shall submit such determinations to both the operators and miners as soon as possible; and
- (12) for such other purposes as they deem necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) Activities under this section in the field of coal or other mine health shall be carried out by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare through the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health established under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, and activities under this section in the field of coal or other mine safety shall be carried out by the Secretary of the Interior in coordination with the Secretary.

(c) In carrying out the provisions for research, demonstrations, experiments, studies, training, and education under this section and sections 301(b) and 502(a) of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in coordination with the Secretary may enter into contracts with, and make grants to, public and private agencies and organizations and individuals. No research, demonstrations, or experiments shall be carried out, contracted for, sponsored, cosponsored, or authorized under authority of this Act, unless all information, uses, products, processes, patents, and other developments resulting from such research, demonstrations, or experiments will (with such exception and limitation, if any, as the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in coordination with the Secretary may find to be necessary in the public interest) be available to the general public.

(d) The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall also conduct studies and research into matters involving the protection of life and the prevention of diseases in connection with persons, who although not miners, work with, or around the products of, coal or other mines in areas outside of such mines and under conditions which may adversely affect the health and well-being of such persons.

(e) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior such sums as may be necessary to carry out his responsibilities under this section and section 301(b) of this Act at an annual rate of not to exceed \$20,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970, \$25,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971, and \$60,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972, and for each succeeding fiscal year thereafter. There is authorized to be appropriated annually to the Secretary of Health, Education, and

Welfare such sums as may be necessary to carry out his responsibilities under this Act. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

(f) The Secretary is authorized to grant on a mine-by-mine basis an exception to any mandatory health or safety standard under this Act for the purpose of permitting, under such terms and conditions as he may prescribe, accredited educational institutions the opportunity for experimenting with new and improved techniques and equipment to improve the health and safety of miners. No such exception shall be granted unless the Secretary finds that the granting of the exception will not adversely affect the health and safety of miners and publishes his findings.

(g) The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare is authorized to make grants to any public or private agency, institution, or organization, and operators or individuals for research and experiments to develop effective respiratory equipment.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

SEC. 502. (a) The Secretary shall expand programs for the education and training of operators and agents thereof, and miners in--

- (1) the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of accidents or unsafe or unhealthful working conditions in coal or other mines; and
- (2) in the use of flame safety lamps, permissible methane detectors, and other means approved by the Secretary for detecting methane and other explosive gases accurately.

(b) The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent possible, provide technical assistance to operators in meeting the requirements of this Act and in further improving the health and safety conditions and practices in coal or other mines.

(c)(1) The National Mine Health and Safety Academy shall be maintained as an agency of the Department of the Interior. The Academy shall be responsible for the training of mine safety and health inspectors under section 505 of this Act, and in training of technical support personnel of the Mine Safety and Health Administration established under section 302 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Amendments Act of 1977; and for any other training programs for mine inspectors, mining personnel, or other persons as the Secretaries of Labor and Interior shall designate. In performing this function, the Academy shall have the authority to enter into cooperative educational and training agreements with educational institutions, State governments, labor organizations, and mine operators and related industries. Such training shall be conducted by the Academy in accordance with curriculum needs and assignment of instructional personnel established by the user.

(2) In performing its function pursuant to this section, the National Mine Health and Safety Academy shall use the facilities and personnel of the Department of the Interior, and such other personnel as shall be mutually agreed upon by the Secretaries of Labor and Interior. The Secretary of the Interior may appoint or assign to the Academy such officers and employees as he deems necessary for the performance of the duties and functions of the Academy.

(3) The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct his safety research responsibilities under section 501 of this Act in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretaries of Labor and the Interior are authorized to enter into contractual or other agreements for the performance of such safety related research.

ASSISTANCE TO STATES

SEC. 503. (a) The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Secretary of the Interior, is authorized to make grants in accordance with an application approved under this section to any State in which coal or other mining takes place--

- (1) to assist such State in developing and enforcing effective coal or other mine health and safety laws and regulations consistent with the provisions of section 506 of this Act;
- (2) to improve State workmen's compensation and occupational disease laws and programs related to coal or other mine employment; and
- (3) to promote Federal-State coordination and cooperation in improving the health and safety conditions in the coal or other mines.

(b) The Secretary shall approve any application or any modification thereof, submitted under this section by a State, through its official coal or other mine inspection or safety agency, which--

- (1) sets forth the programs, policies, and methods to be followed in carrying out the application in accordance with the purposes of subsection (a) of this section;
- (2) provides research and planning studies to carry out plans designed to improve State workmen's compensation and occupational disease laws and programs, as they relate to compensation to miners for occupationally caused diseases and injuries arising out of employment in any coal or other mine;
- (3) designates such State coal or other mine inspection or safety agency as the sole agency responsible for administering grants under this section throughout the State, and contains satisfactory evidence that such agency will have the authority to carry out the purposes of this section;
- (4) gives assurances that such agency has or will employ an adequate and competent staff of trained inspectors qualified under the laws of such State to make coal or other mine inspections within such State;
- (5) provides for the extension and improvement of the State program for the improvement of coal or other mine health and safety in the State, and provides that no advance notice of an inspection will be provided anyone;
- (6) provides such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be appropriate to assure proper disbursement and accounting of grants made to the States under this section;
- (7) provides that the designated agency will make such reports to the Secretary in such form and containing such information as the Secretary may from time to time require;
- (8) contains assurances that grants provided under this section will supplement, not supplant, existing State coal or other mine health and safety programs; and
- (9) meets additional conditions which the Secretary may prescribe in furtherance of, and consistent with, the purposes of this section.

(c) The Secretary shall not finally disapprove any State application or modification thereof without first affording the State agency reasonable notice and opportunity for a public hearing.

(d) Any State aggrieved by a decision of the Secretary under subsection (b) or (c) of this section may file within thirty days from the date of such decision with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia a petition praying that such action be modified or set aside in whole or in part. The court shall hear such appeal on the record made before the Secretary. The decision of the Secretary incorporating his findings of fact therein, if supported by substantial evidence on the record considered as a whole, shall be conclusive. The court may affirm, vacate, or remand the proceedings to the Secretary for such further action as it directs. The filing of a petition under this subsection shall not stay the application of the decision of the Secretary, unless the court so orders. The provisions of section 106(a), (b), and (c) of this Act shall not be applicable to this section.

(e) Any State application or modification thereof submitted to the Secretary under this section may include a program to train State inspectors.

(f) The Secretary shall cooperate with such State in carrying out the application or modification thereof and shall, as appropriate, develop and, where appropriate, construct facilities for, and finance a program of, training of Federal and State inspectors jointly. The Secretary shall also cooperate with such State in establishing a system by which State and Federal inspection reports of coal or other mines located in the State are exchanged for the purpose of improving health and safety conditions in such mines.

(g) The amount granted to any coal or other mining State for a fiscal year under this section shall not exceed 80 per centum of the amount expended by such State in such year for carrying out such application.

(h) There is authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 1970, and \$10,000,000 annually in each succeeding fiscal year to carry out the provisions of this section, which shall remain available until expended. The Secretary shall provide for an equitable distribution of sums appropriated for grants under this section to the States where there is an approved application, except that no less than one-half of such sum shall be allocated to coal-producing States

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

SEC. 504. (a) Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act, as amended, is amended--

(1) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting in lieu thereof "; and"; and
(2) by adding after paragraph (4) a new paragraph as follows: "(5) to make such loans (either directly or in cooperation with banks or other lending institutions through agreements to participate on an immediate or deferred basis) as the Administration may determine to be necessary or appropriate to assist any small business concern operating a coal mine in affecting additions to or alterations in the equipment, facilities, or methods of operation of such mine to requirements imposed by the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, if the Administration determines that such concern is likely to suffer substantial economic injury without assistance under this paragraph."

(b) The third sentence of section 7(b) of such Act is amended by inserting "or (5)" after "paragraph (3)".

(c) Section 4(c)(1) of the Small Business Act, as amended, is amended by inserting "7(b)(5)," after "7(b)(4),".

(d) Loans may also be made or guaranteed for the purposes set forth in section 7(b)(5) of the Small Business Act, as amended pursuant to the provisions of section 202 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended.

INSPECTORS; QUALIFICATIONS; TRAINING

SEC. 505. The Secretary may, subject to the civil service laws, appoint such employees as he deems requisite for the administration of this Act and prescribe their duties. Persons appointed as authorized representatives of the Secretary shall be qualified by practical experience in mining or by experience as a practical mining engineer or by education: Provided, however, That, to the maximum extent feasible, in the selection of persons for appointment as mine inspectors, no person shall be so selected unless he has the basic qualification of at least five years practical mining experience and in assigning mine inspectors to the inspection and investigation of individual mines, due consideration shall be given to the extent possible to their previous experience in the particular type of mining operation where such inspections are to be made. Persons appointed to assist such representatives in the taking of samples of respirable dust for the purpose of enforcing title II of this Act shall be qualified by training, experience, or education. The provisions of section 201 of the Revenue and Expenditure Control Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 251, 270) shall not apply with respect to the appointment of such authorized representatives of the Secretary or to persons appointed to assist such representatives and to carry out the provisions of this Act, and, in applying the provisions of such section to other agencies under the Secretary and to other agencies of the Government, such appointed persons shall not be taken into account. Such persons shall be adequately trained by the Secretary. The Secretary shall develop programs with educational institutions and operators designed to enable persons to qualify for positions in the administration of this Act. In selecting persons and training and retraining persons to carry out the provisions of this Act, the Secretary shall work with appropriate educational institutions, operators, and representatives of miners in developing and maintaining adequate programs for the training and continuing education of persons, particularly inspectors, and where appropriate, the Secretary shall cooperate with such institutions in carrying out the provisions of this section by providing financial and technical assistance to such institutions.

EFFECT ON STATE LAWS

SEC. 506. (a) No State law in effect on the date of enactment of this Act or which may become effective thereafter shall be superseded by any provision of this Act or order issued or any mandatory health or safety standard, except insofar as such State law is in conflict with this Act or with any order issued or any mandatory health or safety standard.

(b) The provisions of any State law or regulation in effect upon the operative date of this Act, or which may become effective thereafter, which provide for more stringent health and safety standards applicable to coal or other mines than do the provisions of this Act or any order issued or any mandatory health or safety standard shall not thereby be construed or held to be in conflict with this Act. The provisions of any State law or regulation in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, or which may become effective thereafter, which provide for health and safety standards applicable to coal or other mines for which no provision is contained in this Act or in any order issued or any mandatory health or safety standard, shall not be held to be in conflict with this Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

SEC. 507. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the provisions of sections 551-559 and sections 701-706 of title 5 of the United States Code shall not apply to the making of any order, notice, or decision made pursuant to this Act, or to any proceeding for the review thereof.

REGULATIONS

SEC. 508. The Secretary, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Panel are authorized to issue such regulations as each deems appropriate to carry out any provision of this Act.

OPERATIVE DATE AND REPEAL

SEC. 509. Except to the extent an earlier date is specifically provided in this Act, the provisions of titles I and HI of this Act shall become operative ninety days after the date of enactment of this Act, and the provisions of title II of this Act shall become operative six months after the date of enactment of this Act. The provisions of the Federal Coal Mine Safety Act, as amended, are repealed on the operative date of titles I and III of this Act, except that such provisions shall continue to apply to any order, notice, decision, or finding issued under that Act prior to such operative date and to any proceedings related to such order, notice, decision or findings. All other provisions of this Act shall be effective on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEPARABILITY

SEC. 510. If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of this Act, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby.

REPORTS

SEC. 511. (a) Within one hundred and twenty days following the convening of each session of Congress the Secretary shall submit through the President to the Congress and to the Office of Science and Technology an annual report upon the subject matter of this Act, the progress concerning the achievement of its purposes, the needs and requirements in the field of coal or other mine health and safety, the amount and status of each loan made pursuant to this Act, a description and the anticipated cost of each project and program he has undertaken under sections 301(b) and 501, and any other relevant information, including any recommendations he deems appropriate.

(b) Within one hundred and twenty days following the convening of each session of Congress, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare shall submit through the President to the Congress and to the Office of Science and Technology an annual report upon the health matters covered by this Act, including the progress toward the achievement of the health purposes of this Act, the needs and requirements in the field of coal or other mine health, a description and the anticipated cost of each project and program he has undertaken under sections 301(b) and 501, and any other relevant information, including any recommendations he deems appropriate. The first such report shall include the recommendations of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare as to necessary mandatory health standards, including his recommendations as to the maximum permissible individual exposure to miners from respirable dust during a shift.

SPECIAL REPORT

SEC. 512. (a) The Secretary shall make a study to determine the best manner to coordinate Federal and State activities in the field of coal or other mine health and safety so as to achieve (1) maximum health and safety protection for miners, (2) an avoidance of duplication of effort, (3) maximum effectiveness, (4) a reduction of delay to a minimum, and (5) most effective use of Federal inspectors.

(b) The Secretary shall make a report of the results of his study to the Congress as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act.

JURISDICTION; LIMITATION

SEC. 513. In any proceeding in which the validity of any interim mandatory health or safety standard set forth in titles II and III of this Act is in issue, no justice, judge, or court of the United States shall issue any temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction restraining the enforcement of such standard pending a determination of such issue on its merits.

ADDENDUM

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS OF THE "FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1977"

TRANSFER MATTERS

SEC. 301. (a) Except with respect to the functions assigned to the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 501 of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, the functions of the Secretary of the Interior under the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety Act are transferred to the Secretary of Labor, except those which are expressly transferred to the Commission by this Act.

(b)(1) The mandatory standards relating to mines, issued by the Secretary of the Interior under the Federal Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety Act and standards and regulations under the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 which are in effect on the date of enactment of this Act shall remain in effect as mandatory health or safety standards applicable to metal and nonmetallic mines and to coal mines respectively under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 until such time as the Secretary of Labor shall issue new or revised mandatory health or safety standards applicable to metal and nonmetallic mines and new or revised mandatory health or safety standards applicable to coal mines.

(2) Within 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior shall establish an advisory committee under section 102 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 which shall, within 180 days after the date of the establishment of such advisory committee, review the advisory health and safety standards issued by the Secretary of the Interior under the Federal Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety Act and recommend to the Secretary of Labor which

of those standards (or any modifications of such standards which do not substantially diminish the health and safety of miners) should be promulgated as mandatory health or safety standards. The Secretary of Labor shall publish, within 60 days after any recommendations of the advisory committee under this paragraph, each of the standards so recommended for adoption with or without modifications as a proposed mandatory health or safety standard under this section by publication of such standard in the Federal Register, and afford interested persons a period of 25 days after publication to submit written data or comment. Within 30 days after the close of the comment period specified in the preceding sentence, the Secretary of Labor shall promulgate by publication in the Federal Register mandatory health or safety standards based upon the advisory committee recommendation with or without modification, and the data and comments received thereon, unless the Secretary of Labor determines that such standards will not promote the health and safety of miners and publishes an explanation of that determination in the Federal Register.

(c)(1) All unexpended balances of appropriations, personnel, property, records, obligations, and commitments which are used primarily with respect to any functions transferred under the provisions of subsection (a) to the Secretary of Labor shall be transferred to the Department of Labor or the Commission, as appropriate. The transfer of personnel pursuant to this paragraph shall be without reduction in classification or compensation for one year after such transfer, except that the Secretary of Labor shall have full authority to assign personnel during such one-year period in order to efficiently carry out functions transferred to him under this Act.

(2) All orders, decisions, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, contracts, certificates, licenses, and privileges (A) which have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective in the exercise of functions which are transferred under this section by any department or agency, any functions of which are transferred by this section, and (B) which are in effect at the time this section takes effect, shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, revoked, or repealed by the Secretary of Labor, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission or other authorized officials, by any court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not affect any proceedings pending at the time this section takes effect before any department, agency, or component thereof, functions of which are transferred by this section, except that such proceedings, to the extent that they relate to functions so transferred, shall be continued before the Secretary of Labor or the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this section had not been enacted; and orders issued in any such proceedings shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, superseded, revoked, or repealed by the Secretary of Labor, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law. Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any proceeding under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such proceeding could have been discontinued if this section had not been enacted.

(4) The provisions of this section shall not affect suits commenced prior to the date this section takes effect and in all such suits proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered, in the same manner and effect as if this section had not been enacted; except that if before the date on which this section takes effect, any department or agency (or officer thereof in his official capacity) is a party to a suit involving functions transferred to the Secretary, then such suit shall be continued by the Secretary of Labor. No cause of action, and no suit, action, or other proceeding, by or against any department or agency (or officer thereof in his official capacity) functions of which are transferred by this section, shall abate by reason of the enactment of this section. Causes of actions, suits, actions, or other proceedings may be asserted by or against the United States or the Secretary as may be appropriate and, in any litigation pending when this section takes effect, the court may at any time, on its own motion or that of any party, enter an order which will give effect to the provisions of this paragraph.

(d) For purposes of this section, (1) the term "function" includes power and duty, and (2) the transfer of a function, under any provision of law, of an agency or the head of a department shall also be a transfer of all

functions under such law which are exercised by any officer or officer of such agency or department.

(e) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to make such determinations as may be necessary with regard to the dispositions of personnel, personnel positions, property, records, assets, liabilities, contracts, obligations, commitments, unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds employed, held, used, arising from, available or to be made available, in connection with the functions transferred by this Act as he may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 302. (a) There is established in the Department of Labor a Mine Safety and Health Administration to be headed by an Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health, shall have authority to appoint, subject to the civil service laws, such officers and employees as he may deem necessary for the administration of this Act, and to prescribe powers, duties, and responsibilities of all officers and employees engaged in the administration of this Act. The Secretary is authorized and directed, except as specifically provided otherwise to carry out his functions under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 through the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

(b) Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following paragraphs: "(120) Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. "(121) Members, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission."

(c)(1) Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph: "(66) Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission."

(d) The principal office of the Commission shall be in the District of Columbia. Whenever the Commission deems that convenience of the public or the parties may be promoted, or delay or expense may be minimized, it may hold hearings or conduct other proceedings at any other place.

SAVINGS PROVISION

SEC. 304. Nothing contained in this Act or any amendment made by this Act shall be construed to reduce the number of inspectors engaged in enforcement of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 and the Federal Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety Act as in effect prior to the effective date of this Act or to reduce the number of inspectors engaged in the enforcement of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

BUDGET PROVISION

SEC. 305. In the preparation of the Budget message required under section 201 of the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921 (31 U.S.C. 11), the President shall set forth as separate appropriation accounts amounts required for appropriation for mine health and safety pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 and for occupational safety and health pursuant to the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

REPEALER

SEC. 306. (a) The Federal Metal and Nonmetallic Mine Safety Act is repealed.

(b) Section 405 of the Act of November 16, 1973, Public Law 93-153 is repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 307. Except as otherwise provided, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act. The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of the Interior are authorized to establish such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the efficient transfer of functions provided under this Act. The amendment to the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969 made by section 202 of this Act shall be effective on the date of enactment.

Approved November 9, 1977

[BACK TO THE BEGINNING](#)