§ 57.6100 Separation of stored explosive material.

(a) Detonators shall not be stored in the same magazine with other explosive material.

(b) When stored in the same magazine, blasting agents shall be separated from explosives, safety fuse, and detonating cord to prevent contamination.

§ 57.6101 Areas around explosive material storage facilities.

(a) Areas surrounding storage facilities for explosive material shall be clear of rubbish, brush, dry grass, and trees for 25 feet in all directions, except that live trees 10 feet or taller need not be removed.

(b) Other combustibles shall not be stored or allowed to accumulate within 50 feet of explosive material. Combustible liquids shall be stored in a manner that ensures drainage will occur away from the explosive material storage facility in case of tank rupture.

§ 57.6102 Explosive material storage practices.

(a) Explosive material shall be—

(1) Stored in a manner to facilitate use of oldest stocks first;

(2) Stored according to brand and grade in such a manner as to facilitate identification; and

(3) Stacked in a stable manner but not more than 8 feet high.

(b) Explosives and detonators shall be stored in closed nonconductive containers except that nonelectric detonating devices may be stored on nonconductive racks provided the case-insert instructions and the date-plant-shift code are maintained with the product.

§ 57.6130 Explosive material storage facilities.

(a) Detonators and explosives shall be stored in magazines.

(b) Packaged blasting agents shall be stored in a magazine or other facility which is ventilated to prevent dampness and excessive heating, weather-resistant, and locked or attended. Drop trailers do not have to be ventilated if they are currently licensed by the Federal, State, or local authorities for over-the-road use. Facilities other than magazines used to store blasting agents shall contain only blasting agents.

(c) Bulk blasting agents shall be stored in weather-resistant bins or tanks which are locked, attended, or otherwise inaccessible to unauthorized entry.

(d) Facilities, bins or tanks shall be posted with the appropriate United States Department of Transportation placards or other appropriate warning signs that indicate the contents and are visible from each approach.

§ 57.6131 Location of explosive material storage facilities.

(a) Storage facilities for any explosive material shall be—

(1) Located so that the forces generated by a storage facility explosion will not create a hazard to occupants in mine buildings and will not damage dams or electric substations; and

(2) Detached structures located outside the blast area and a sufficient distance from powerlines so that the powerlines, if damaged, would not contact the magazines.

(b) Operators should also be aware of regulations affecting storage facilities in 27 CFR part 55, in particular, 27 CFR 55.218 and 55.220. This document is available at any MSHA Metal and Nonmetal Safety and Health district office.

§ 57.6132 Magazine requirements.

(a) Magazines shall be—

(1) Structurally sound;

(2) Noncombustible or the exterior covered with fire-resistant material;

(3) Bullet resistant;

(4) Made of nonsparking material on the inside;

(5) Ventilated to control dampness and excessive heating within the magazine;

(6) Posted with the appropriate United States Department of Transportation placards or other appropriate warning signs that indicate the contents and are visible from each approach, so located that a bullet passing through any of the signs will not strike the magazine;

(7) Kept clean and dry inside;
§ 57.6160 Main facilities.  

(a) Main facilities used to store explosive material underground shall be—

(1) In stable or supported ground;  

(2) So that a fire or explosion in the storage facilities will not prevent escape from the mine, or cause detonation of the contents of another storage facility;  

(3) Out of the line of blasts, and protected from vehicular traffic, except that accessing the facility;  

(4) At least 200 feet from work places or shafts;  

(5) At least 50 feet from electric substations;  

(6) A safe distance from trolley wires;  

(7) At least 25 feet from detonator storage facilities.  

(b) Main facilities used to store explosive material underground shall be—

(1) Posted with warning signs that indicate the contents and are visible from any approach;  

(2) Used exclusively for the storage of explosive material and necessary equipment associated with explosive material storage and delivery;  

(3) Portions of the facility used for the storage of explosives shall only contain nonsparking material or equipment.

§ 57.6133 Powder chests.  

(a) Powder chests (day boxes) shall be—

(1) Structurally sound, weather-resistant, equipped with a lid or cover, and with only nonsparking material on the inside;  

(2) Posted with the appropriate United States Department of Transportation placards or other appropriate warning signs that indicate the contents and are visible from each approach;  

(3) Located out of the blast area once loading has been completed;  

(4) Locked or attended when containing explosive material; and  

(5) Empty by the end of each shift with the contents returned to a magazine or other storage facility, or attended.  

(b) Detonators shall be kept in chests separate from explosives or blasting agents, unless separated by 4-inches of hardwood or equivalent, or a laminated partition. When a laminated partition is used, operators must follow the provisions of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) Safety Library Publication No. 22, (May 1993), “Recommendations for the Safe Transportation of Detonators in a Vehicle with other Explosive Materials.” (May 1993), and the “Generic Loading Guide for the IME–22 Container;” (October 1993). This incorporation by reference has been approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies are available at MSHA, 1100 Wilson Blvd., Room 2436, Arlington, Virginia 22209–3939, and at all Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health district offices, or available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6030, or go to: http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.

[61 FR 36801, July 12, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 38385, June 4, 2002]  

STORAGE—UNDERGROUND ONLY

§ 57.6160 Main facilities.  

(a) Main facilities used to store explosive material underground shall be located—

(1) In stable or supported ground;  

(2) So that a fire or explosion in the storage facilities will not prevent escape from the mine, or cause detonation of the contents of another storage facility;  

(3) Out of the line of blasts, and protected from vehicular traffic, except that accessing the facility;  

(4) At least 200 feet from work places or shafts;  

(5) At least 50 feet from electric substations;  

(6) A safe distance from trolley wires;  

(7) At least 25 feet from detonator storage facilities.  

(b) Main facilities used to store explosive material underground shall be—

(1) Posted with warning signs that indicate the contents and are visible from any approach;  

(2) Used exclusively for the storage of explosive material and necessary equipment associated with explosive material storage and delivery;  

(3) Portions of the facility used for the storage of explosives shall only contain nonsparking material or equipment.