

Mine Safety and Health Admin., Labor

§ 49.50

(e) The District Manager may revoke an instructor's approval for good cause. A written statement revoking the approval together with reasons for revocation shall be provided the instructor. The affected instructor may appeal the decision of the District Manager by writing to the Administrator for Coal Safety and Health. The Administrator shall issue a decision on the appeal.

(f) Upon request from the District Manager, the operator shall provide information concerning the schedule of upcoming training.

(g) A record of training of each team member shall be on file at the mine rescue station for a period of 1 year.

§ 49.19 Mine emergency notification plan.

(a) Each underground mine shall have a mine rescue notification plan outlining the procedures to follow in notifying the mine rescue teams when there is an emergency that requires their services.

(b) A copy of the mine rescue notification plan shall be posted at the mine for the miners' information. Where a miners' representative has been designated, the operator shall also provide the representative with a copy of the plan.

§ 49.20 Requirements for all coal mines.

(a) The operator of each underground coal mine shall make available two certified mine rescue teams whose members—

(1) Are familiar with the operations of the mine, and

(2) Participate at least annually in two local mine rescue contests.

(b) Team members shall meet the following:

(1) *Mine-site team.* Members who work at the mine and participate in mine rescue training at the mine at least annually at large mines and at least semi-annually at small mines.

(2) *Composite team.* A mine rescue team that covers multiple mines and whose members—

(i) Include at least two members from each covered large mine and at least one member from each covered small mine,

(ii) Are knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered underground coal mine, and

(iii) Participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine at least semi-annually.

(3) *Contract team.* A mine rescue team that is provided by an arrangement with another coal mine or with a third party and whose members—

(i) Are knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered underground coal mine, and

(ii) Participate in mine rescue training at each covered large mine at least quarterly and at each covered small mine at least semi-annually.

(4) *State-sponsored team.* Members who are state employees and participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine at least annually at large mines and at least semi-annually at small mines.

(c) For the purpose of mine rescue team membership, a member employed by an operator of multiple mines is considered to be an employee of each mine at which the member regularly works.

(d) For the purpose of mine rescue team training at each covered mine, a portion of the training must be conducted underground.

[73 FR 7648, Feb. 8, 2008, as amended at 74 FR 28609, June 17, 2009]

§ 49.30 Requirements for small coal mines.

At mines with 36 or fewer underground employees, mine rescue team members shall be knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered mine.

§ 49.40 Requirements for large coal mines.

At mines with more than 36 underground employees, one of the two certified mine rescue teams shall be an individual mine-site team or a composite team.

§ 49.50 Certification of coal mine rescue teams.

(a) For each mine rescue team designated to provide mine rescue coverage at an underground coal mine, the mine operator shall send the District

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Manager an annual statement certifying that each team meets the requirements of this subpart as listed in the following Table 49.50–A and Table 49.50–B.

(b) The operator shall notify the District Manager within 60 days of any change in team membership.

TABLE 49.50–A—INITIAL CRITERIA TO CERTIFY THE QUALIFICATIONS OF MINE RESCUE TEAMS

Qualification	Criteria (30 CFR)
(1) Team is available at all times when miners are underground	49.12(a); 49.12(g)
(2) Except where alternative compliance is permitted, team has five members and one alternate	49.12(b)
(3) Members have experience working in an underground coal mine	49.12(c)
(4) Team is available within 1-hour ground travel time from the mine rescue station to the mine	49.12(f)
(5) Appropriate mine rescue equipment is provided, inspected, tested, and maintained	49.16
(6) Members are physically fit	49.17
(7) Members have completed initial training	49.18(a)

TABLE 49.50–B—ANNUAL CRITERIA TO MAINTAIN MINE RESCUE TEAM CERTIFICATION

Qualification	Criteria (30 CFR)
(1) Members are properly trained annually	49.18(b)
(2) Members are familiar with the operations of each covered mine	49.20(a)(1)
(3) Members participate in at least two local mine rescue contests annually. Judges certify results ..	49.20(a)(2)
(4) Members participate in mine rescue training at each covered mine	49.20(b)(1); 49.20(b)(2)(iii); 49.20(b)(3)(ii); 49.20(b)(4)
(5) Members are knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of each covered mine	49.20(b)(2)(ii); 49.20(b)(3)(i); 49.30

§ 49.60 Requirements for a local mine rescue contest.

(a) A local mine rescue contest is one that—

- (1) Is conducted in the United States;
- (2) Uses MSHA-recognized rules;
- (3) Has a minimum of three mine rescue teams competing;
- (4) Has one or more problems conducted on one or more days with a determined winner;
- (5) Includes team members who—
 - (i) Have the necessary equipment to participate in a simulated mine rescue team exercise,

(ii) Participate in a simulated mine rescue team exercise while being timed and observed by trained judges who evaluate the performance of each team and provide written feedback, and

(iii) Wear oxygen breathing apparatus while participating in a simulated mine rescue team exercise; and

(6) Includes contest judges who have completed annual training for mine rescue contest judges.

(b) A local mine rescue contest is training that provides an objective evaluation of demonstrated mine rescue team skills and can be a Mine Emergency Response Development (MERD) exercise or a practical simulation exercise, such as a fire or explosion drill, where the team participates in simulated mine rescue team exercises and wears breathing apparatus.

(c) Upon request from the District Manager, the operator shall provide information concerning each designated team’s schedule of participation in upcoming local mine rescue contests.