Mine Safety and Health Admin., Labor

§ 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 Manager the following: (i) 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.

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

(c) A copy 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,
§ 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.