

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Mine Safety and Health Administration****First Aid Training for Selected Supervisors**

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration. Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has decided against issuing a Program Policy Letter (PPL) concerning first aid training for selected supervisors. Instead, the Agency is revising the existing standard. Notice of the new standard is published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rodric M. Breland, Chief Division of Safety, Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health, 703-235-8647.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In response to determinations of repeated instances of noncompliance with §§ 56/57.18010, on October 3, 1994, MSHA issued Program Policy Letter (PPL) No. P94-IV-2, First Aid Training for Selected Supervisors, to underscore the standard's intent. The policy letter

emphasized that the requirement for first aid training is separate from 30 CFR part 48, Training and retraining for miners, and also addressed frequently asked questions concerning the standards. MSHA received a number of objections and withdrew the October policy letter by Federal Register notice of February 22, 1995 (60 FR 9986). The Agency began a new process of seeking public comment on certain policies. In an accompanying notice, MSHA requested comments on the October policy letter for first aid training.

MSHA received written comments from labor and industry representatives and subsequently held public meetings on July 6, 1995, in Cleveland, Ohio; July 12, 1995, in Elko, Nevada; and July 19, 1995, in Dallas, Texas. At the public meetings, MSHA officials discussed the purpose and enforcement history of the standard as well as compliance problems raised by industry.

Commenters at the public meetings had a number of objections to the draft policy statement, expressing their concerns about training in first aid being required for supervisors when medical professionals were available at the mine; the belief that supervisory presence was

being required during off-shifts; subjects included in a first aid course; duration of training; refresher training requirements; and the offering of the first aid training to interested miners. The commenters requested specifically that MSHA not issue a policy, but rather promulgate a new first aid standard.

MSHA has reviewed both written and oral comments from the mining community. In response to commenters, MSHA will not issue a final PPL on this standard, but will continue its existing enforcement policy pertaining to this standard while proposing a new standard. Notice of the Agency's proposed rule is published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

If persons have questions on compliance requirements of 30 CFR 56/57.18010, they should contact the MSHA district manager in their area or the MSHA official as indicated in this notice.

Dated: October 20, 1995.

J. Davitt McAteer,

Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health.

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