

not independently impose civil penalties under the False Claims Act and the Department of Justice has existing regulations at Table 1 to 28 CFR 85.5 that implement these civil penalties, this removal will not affect any potential cases, will not modify the Board's actual practice in referring such cases to the Department of Justice, and will not increase or decrease any individual's actual liability for civil penalties under the False Claims Act. Accordingly, the Board removes 20 CFR 356.3 in its entirety.

The Board also amends 20 CFR 356.2 to update the reference to the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986. In section 5203 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, Congress made substantial amendments to the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, including changing its short title to the Administrative False Claims Act. Public Law 118–159, sec. 5203 (Dec. 23, 2024). The Board comprehensively revised its implementing regulations for the Administrative False Claims Act in 20 CFR part 355 on June 16, 2025. 90 FR 25144 (Jun. 16, 2025). The amendment to § 356.2 aligns the civil monetary penalty inflation adjustment provision with the rest of the implementing regulations in Part 355. As stated in § 356.2(e), the Board will continue to publish the maximum penalty which may be assessed under Part 355 through a **Federal Register** notice on or before January 15 of each calendar year.

Finally, the Board amends § 356.1 to remove obsolete language that described the one-time catch-up adjustment in civil penalty amounts required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015. 28 U.S.C. 2461 note. This one-time adjustment was completed in May 2016 and took effect for claims or statements made on or after August 1, 2016.

This direct final rule is being issued without prior public notice or opportunity for public comments. The Board does not anticipate this rule will generate adverse comment, and the effective date of the rule is conditional on the non-receipt of adverse comments. If the Board receives significant adverse comments prior to the effective date of this direct final rule, the Board will publish a timely notification in the **Federal Register** to withdraw the rule.

Regulatory Analysis

Executive Order 12866, as Supplemented by Executive Order 13563

The Board, with the Office of Management and Budget, has determined that this is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866, as supplemented by Executive Order 13563. Therefore, no regulatory impact analysis is required.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Board certifies that this direct final rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it affects only individuals.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This direct final rule imposes no reporting or recordkeeping requirements subject to Office of Management and Budget clearance.

List of Subjects in 20 CFR Part 356

Claims, Penalties.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Railroad Retirement Board amends 20 CFR part 356 as follows:

PART 356—CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY INFLATION ADJUSTMENT

■ 1. The authority citation for part 356 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 28 U.S.C. 2461; 31 U.S.C. 3809; sec. 5203, Pub. L. 118–159, 138 Stat. 1773.

■ 2. Revise and republish § 356.1 to read as follows:

§ 356.1 Introduction.

(a) The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act, as amended by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note), requires that civil monetary penalties be adjusted on an annual basis by the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the month of October preceding the adjustment exceeds the CPI-U for the month of October of the calendar year prior to the October preceding the adjustment, with final amounts rounded to the nearest dollar. That Act also required a one-time catch-up adjustment in the amount of the percentage by which the CPI-U for October 2015 exceeded the CPI-U for the month of October of the calendar year during which the amount of civil monetary penalty was established or adjusted under a provision of law other than the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act. This one-time catch-up adjustment was published in May 2016

and took effect for claims or statements made on or after August 1, 2016.

(b) Imposition of the increased civil monetary penalties are limited to actions occurring after the effective date of the increases.

(c) The ten percent cap on increases imposed by the Debt Collection Improvements Act of 1996 was eliminated in the 2015 amendments to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act and is no longer applicable.

■ 3. In § 356.2, revise the section heading to read as follows:

§ 356.2 Penalties under the Administrative False Claims Act.

§ 356.3 [Removed]

■ 4. Remove § 356.3.

Dated: June 23, 2026.

By Authority of the Board.

Stephanie Hillyard,

Secretary to the Board.

[FR Doc. 2026–12805 Filed 6–24–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7905–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

30 CFR Part 57

[Docket No. MSHA–2025–0076]

RIN 1219–AC07

Improving and Eliminating Regulations; Blacksmith Shops

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Department of Labor.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: MSHA is eliminating outdated requirements for blacksmith shops located at surface areas of underground metal and nonmetal (MNM) mines. These provisions are being removed from MSHA's regulations because blacksmith shops are no longer used by MNM mines.

DATES: *Effective date:* July 27, 2026.

ADDRESSES:

Docket: Access rulemaking documents electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov> [Docket No. MSHA–2025–0076]. Obtain a copy of rulemaking documents from the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210, by request to (202) 693–9440. This is not a toll-free number.

Email notification: To subscribe to receive an email notification when the

Agency publishes rulemaking documents in the **Federal Register**, go to www.msha.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Corliss A. Josephs-Conway, Acting Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at 202–693–9440 (voice). This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On February 6, 2025, the President issued Executive Order (E.O.) 14192 “Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation,” (90 FR 9065), which directed agencies to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens. On July 1, 2025, MSHA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) titled, “Improving and Eliminating Regulations; Blacksmith Shops” in the **Federal Register** (90 FR 28400). In the NPRM, MSHA proposed to remove the requirements in 30 CFR 57.4532, *Blacksmith shops*, because the safety requirements in the section are not necessary since blacksmith shops are not currently being used at surface areas of underground MNM mines and will not be used in the future because it’s an outdated technology.

MSHA received three comments on the NPRM during the public comment period. Two commenters requested that the comment period be extended to 60 days. One commenter supported MSHA’s proposal. MSHA received no comments opposed to the changes discussed in the NPRM.

II. Discussion

§ 57.4532—Blacksmith Shops

In this final rule, unchanged from the proposal, MSHA is removing § 57.4532 in its entirety. This section outlines the requirements for blacksmith shops located at surface areas of underground MNM mines. Active blacksmith shops are no longer located at surface areas of underground MNM mines. Removing these requirements will streamline part 57 by removing an outdated section that is no longer applicable and will not reduce the protections afforded to miners. This will result in improved clarity of MSHA’s standards for MNM miners and mine operators.

MSHA received two comments requesting an extension of the comment period. One commenter stated a 30-day comment period did not provide ample time for review, research, and development of meaningful comments, and requested a 60-day extension. The same commenter stated support for any effort that enhances health and safety protections for miners; however, they

noted the Agency could ensure this rule becomes a success by allowing additional time for comments. Another commenter stated that they agreed the period for public comments should be extended to 60 days.

MSHA reviewed the comments and determined it was not necessary to extend the comment period. Removing the requirements for blacksmith shops will not reduce the protections currently afforded to miners. Active blacksmith shops are no longer located at surface areas of underground MNM mines, making § 57.4532 outdated. MSHA determined this rule is not a significant regulatory action because it does not meet any of the four “significant regulatory action” criteria under section 3(f) of E.O. 12866. The changes are non-substantive; therefore, extending the comment period was unnecessary.

MSHA received one comment in support of the proposal. The commenter supported removal of the outdated requirements, noting that the proposal would not result in a reduction of safety protections for miners.

MSHA agrees with the commenter and believes that removing these requirements does not impose any safety or health hazards on miners since the practice of using blacksmith shops at surface areas of underground MNM mines is outdated. Therefore, MSHA is removing § 57.4532 in its entirety and reserving the section number, as proposed.

III. Procedural Issues and Regulatory Review

A. Review Under Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Executive Order (E.O.) 12866, “Regulatory Planning and Review” 58 FR 51735 (Oct. 4, 1993), requires agencies, to the extent permitted by law, to (1) propose or adopt a regulation only upon a reasoned determination that its benefits justify its costs (recognizing that some benefits and costs are difficult to quantify); (2) tailor regulations to impose the least burden on society, consistent with obtaining regulatory objectives, taking into account, among other things, and to the extent practicable, the costs of cumulative regulations; (3) select, in choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, those approaches that maximize net benefits; (4) to the extent feasible, specify performance objectives, rather than specifying the behavior or manner of compliance that regulated entities must adopt; and (5) identify and assess available alternatives to direct regulation, including providing economic incentives to encourage the

desired behavior, such as user fees or marketable permits, or providing information upon which choices can be made by the public.

E.O. 13563, “Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review,” 76 FR 3821 (Jan. 21, 2011), requires agencies to use the best available techniques to quantify anticipated present and future benefits and costs as accurately as possible. E.O. 13563 reaffirms the principles of E.O. 12866 while calling for improvements in the nation’s regulatory system to promote predictability, reduce uncertainty, and use the best, most innovative, and least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends. E.O. 13563 directs agencies to propose or adopt a regulation only upon a reasoned determination that its benefits justify its costs; the regulation is tailored to impose the least burden on society, consistent with achieving the regulatory objectives; and in choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, the agency has selected those approaches that maximize net benefits.

E.O. 12866 and E.O. 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. E.O. 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and promoting flexibility.

Removing the requirements concerning blacksmith shops at surface areas of underground MNM mines will not impose new costs on MNM mine operators because active blacksmith shops are no longer located at surface areas of underground MNM mines. Removing outdated requirements that are no longer applicable will not reduce the protections afforded to miners; instead, it will streamline current requirements and improve the clarity of MSHA’s standards for MNM miners and mine operators.

Under section 6(a) of E.O. 12866, the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB’s) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) determines whether a regulatory action is significant and whether agencies are required to submit the regulatory action to OIRA for review. Under section 3(f) of E.O. 12866, a “significant regulatory action” is a regulatory action that is likely to result in a rule that may:

(1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or

communities (also referred to as economically significant);

(2) Create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;

(3) Materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients; or

(4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in the E.O.

This final rule is determined to not constitute a "significant regulatory action" because it does not meet any of the four "significant regulatory action" criteria under section 3(f) of E.O. 12866. Accordingly, this final rule was not submitted to OIRA for review under E.O. 12866.

No alternatives were considered for this final deregulatory action.

B. Review Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act; Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act; and Executive Order 13272

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) of 1980, as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) of 1996, requires an agency to consider the impact of their rulemakings on small entities. E.O. 13272, "Proper Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking" 67 FR 53461 (Aug. 16, 2002), requires Federal agencies to assess the economic impacts of rules on small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions, and small organizations, collectively referred to as small entities.

MSHA reviewed this final rule, which eliminates burdensome regulations, under the provisions of the RFA. MSHA concludes that this final rule will not have a "significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities." MSHA will transmit this certification and supporting statement of factual basis to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration for review under 5 U.S.C. 605(b).

C. Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) provides for the Federal Government's collection, use, and dissemination of information. The goals of the Paperwork Reduction Act include minimizing paperwork and reporting burdens and ensuring the maximum possible utility from the information that is collected under 5 CFR part 1320. The Paperwork Reduction Act requires Federal agencies to obtain approval from OMB before

requesting or requiring "a collection of information" from the public.

This final rule imposes no new information collection or recordkeeping requirements. Accordingly, OMB clearance is not required under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

D. Review Under Executive Order 13132

E.O. 13132, "Federalism," 64 FR 43255 (August 10, 1999), imposes certain requirements on Federal agencies formulating and implementing policies or regulations that preempt State law or that have federalism implications. The E.O. requires agencies to examine the constitutional and statutory authority supporting any action that would limit the policymaking discretion of the States and to carefully assess the necessity for such actions. The E.O. also requires agencies to have an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely input by State and local officials in the development of regulatory policies that have federalism implications.

MSHA has examined this final rule and has determined that it will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

E. Review Under Executive Order 12988

With respect to the review of existing regulations and the promulgation of new regulations, section 3(a) of E.O. 12988, "Civil Justice Reform" 61 FR 4729 (Feb. 7, 1996), imposes on Federal agencies the general duty to adhere to the following requirements: (1) eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity; (2) write regulations to minimize litigation; (3) provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct rather than a general standard; and (4) promote simplification and burden reduction. Regarding the review required by section 3(a), section 3(b) of E.O. 12988 specifically requires that Executive agencies make every reasonable effort to ensure that the regulation: (1) clearly specifies the preemptive effect, if any; (2) clearly specifies any effect on existing Federal law or regulation; (3) provides a clear legal standard for affected conduct while promoting simplification and burden reduction; (4) specifies the retroactive effect, if any; (5) adequately defines key terms; and (6) addresses other important issues affecting clarity and general draftsmanship under any guidelines issued by the Attorney General.

Section 3(c) of E.O. 12988 requires Executive agencies to review regulations

in light of applicable standards in section 3(a) and section 3(b) to determine whether they are met or it is unreasonable to meet one or more of them. MSHA has completed the required review and determined that, to the extent permitted by law, this final rule meets the relevant standards of E.O. 12988.

F. Review Under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) requires each Federal agency to assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and Tribal governments and the private sector. Public Law 104-4, sec. 201 (codified at 2 U.S.C. 1531). For a regulatory action likely to result in a rule that may cause the expenditure by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100 million or more in any one year (adjusted annually for inflation), section 202 of UMRA requires Federal agencies to publish a written statement that estimates the resulting costs, benefits, and other effects on the national economy (2 U.S.C. 1532(a), (b)). The UMRA also requires Federal agencies to develop an effective process to permit timely input by elected officers of State, local, and Tribal governments on a "significant intergovernmental mandate," and requires an agency plan for giving notice and opportunity for timely input to potentially affected small governments before establishing any requirements that might significantly or uniquely affect them.

MSHA examined this final rule according to UMRA and its statement of policy and determined that it does not contain a Federal intergovernmental mandate, nor is it expected to require expenditures of \$100 million or more in any one year by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector. As a result, the analytical requirements of UMRA do not apply.

G. Review Under the National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), requires each Federal agency to consider the environmental effects of regulatory actions and to prepare an environmental impact statement on Agency actions that would significantly affect the quality of the environment, unless the action is considered categorically excluded under 29 CFR 11.10. MSHA has reviewed the final rule in accordance with NEPA requirements and the Department of Labor's NEPA procedures (29 CFR part 11). As a result of this review, MSHA

has determined that this final rule will not impact air, water, or soil quality, plant or animal life, the use of land or other aspects of the human environment. Therefore, MSHA has not conducted an environmental assessment nor provided an environmental impact statement.

H. Review Under the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999

Section 654 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999 (Pub. L. 105-277) requires Federal agencies to issue a Family Policymaking Assessment for any rule that may affect family well-being. This final rule will not have any impact on the autonomy or integrity of the family as an institution. Accordingly, MSHA has concluded that it is not necessary to prepare a Family Policymaking Assessment.

I. Review Under Executive Order 12630

Pursuant to E.O. 12630, “Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights” 53 FR 8859 (March 18, 1988), MSHA has determined that this final rule will not result in any takings that might require compensation under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

J. Review Under the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001

Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (44 U.S.C. 3516, note) provides for Federal agencies to review most disseminations of information to the public under information quality guidelines established by each agency pursuant to general guidelines issued by OMB. OMB’s guidelines were published at 67 FR 8452 (Feb. 22, 2002). MSHA has reviewed this final rule and has concluded that it is consistent with applicable policies in the OMB guidelines.

K. Review Under Executive Order 13175

E.O. 13175, “Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments” 65 FR 67249 (Nov. 9, 2000), requires agencies to consult with tribal officials when developing policies that may have “tribal implications.” This final rule does not have “tribal implications” because it will not “have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.”

Accordingly, under E.O. 13175, no further Agency action or analysis is required.

L. Review Under Executive Order 13211

E.O. 13211, “Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use” 66 FR 28355 (May 22, 2001), requires agencies to publish a statement of energy effects when a rule has a significant energy action that adversely affects energy supply, distribution, or use. MSHA has reviewed this final rule for its energy effects. For the energy analysis, this final rule will not exceed the relevant criteria for adverse impact.

M. Review Under Additional Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda

MSHA has examined this final rule and has determined that it is consistent with the policies and directives outlined in E.O. 14154, “Unleashing American Energy” 90 FR 8353 (Jan. 29, 2025); E.O. 14192, “Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation” 90 FR 9065 (Feb. 6, 2025); E.O. 14267, “Reducing Anti-Competitive Regulatory Barriers” 90 FR 15629 (Apr. 9, 2025); and the Presidential Memorandum, “Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis” 90 FR 8245 (Jan. 28, 2025). This final rule is an E.O. 14192 deregulatory action.

N. Congressional Notification

As required by 5 U.S.C. 801, MSHA will report to Congress on the promulgation of this rule before its effective date. The report will state that it has been determined that the rule is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 57

Chemicals, Electric power, Explosives, Fire prevention, Gases, Hazardous substances, Metal and nonmetal mining, Mine safety and health, Noise control, Radiation protection, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Underground mining.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, and under the authority of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended, MSHA amends chapter I of title 30 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 57—SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS—UNDERGROUND METAL AND NONMETAL MINES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 57 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 811.

Subpart C—Fire Prevention and Control

§ 57.4532 [Removed and Reserved]

■ 2. Remove and reserve § 57.4532.

Wayne D. Palmer,

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Administration.

[FR Doc. 2026-12797 Filed 6-24-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4520-43-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

30 CFR Part 72

[Docket No. MSHA-2025-0074]

RIN 1219-AC05

Improving and Eliminating Regulations; Diesel Particulate Matter Emission Limits in Underground Coal Mines

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), Department of Labor.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: MSHA is eliminating outdated requirements for diesel particulate matter (DPM) emission limits for permissible diesel-powered equipment and non-permissible heavy-duty diesel-powered equipment operated in underground coal mines. These requirements are being removed from MSHA’s regulations because they contain outdated effective dates that are no longer applicable.

DATES: *Effective date:* July 27, 2026.

ADDRESSES:

Docket: Access rulemaking documents electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov> [Docket No. MSHA-2025-0074]. Obtain a copy of a rulemaking document from the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20210, by request to (202) 693-9440 (voice) or (202) 693-9441 (facsimile). These are not toll-free numbers.

Email Notification: To subscribe to receive email notification when the Agency publishes rulemaking documents in the **Federal Register**, go to www.msha.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Corliss A. Josephs-Conway, Acting Director, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA at 202-693-9440 (voice). This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: