

Mine Safety Compliance

Understanding the MSHA Regulations

Mine safety is essential to prevent fatal accidents, reduce long-term health risks, and ensure the well-being of workers operating in high-risk environments. Therefore, it's necessary to understand the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules that govern workplace safety in the mining industry.

Compliance with MSHA standards not only saves lives but also improves operational efficiency, reduces downtime, and safeguards companies against legal and financial consequences.



Training Requirements

Training plays a fundamental role in the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) effort to help protect miners from illness and injury on the job. Inspections alone cannot keep mines accident-free. Miners and their supervisors need knowledge and motivation in order to stay safe and healthy. They must be aware of how to perform their jobs properly, and they must learn to recognize and control the hazards in their workplace.

There are two major divisions of the MSHA regulations.

30 CFR Part 46 covers the aggregate industry, including granite, sand, gravel, lime and cement operations.

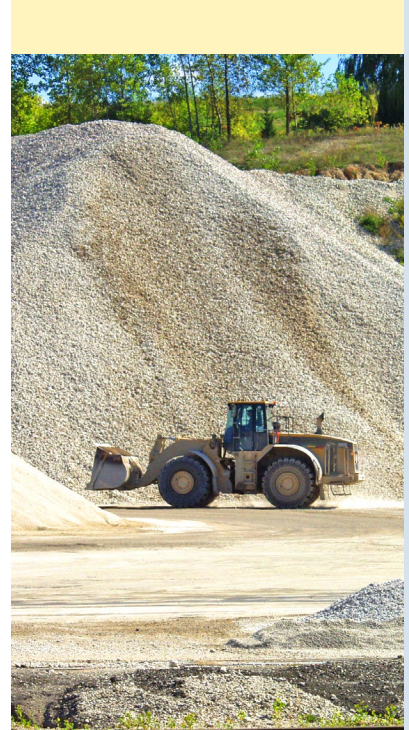
30 CFR Part 48 covers all underground mining, and surface mining of coal and other metal and nonmetal mining operations.

There are some key differences in the training requirements.

Part 46 trainers don't need MSHA approval but must be deemed competent persons by the mine operator; Part 48 trainers must be approved by MSHA, and their instructor certification is kept on file by the agency. Part 46 training plans do not require MSHA approval, as long as they meet the requirements of the rule; Training plans for Part 48 mines must be approved by MSHA.

Section 115 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act) and 30 CFR Part 48 require operators to:

- Develop and implement a written health and safety training plan.
- Submit and obtain approval from MSHA of training plans.



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Part 48 Subpart B
and/or Part 46 training
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An approved plan must include:

- Twenty-four hours of basic safety and health training for new miners who have no mining experience. The training must include:
 - (1) instruction in the statutory rights of miners and their representatives under the Mine Act,
 - (2) use of self-rescue devices where appropriate,
 - (3) use of respiratory devices where appropriate,
 - (4) hazard recognition,
 - (5) emergency procedures,
 - (6) electrical hazards,
 - (7) first aid,
 - (8) walk around training, and
 - (9) the health and safety aspects of the task to which the miner will be assigned.



New miner training consists of 24 hours of health and safety training.
Annual refresher training consists of 8 hours of training.

Experienced miners, who have completed an MSHA-approved new miner training in the past, and who have at least 12 months of mining experience, are allowed to complete a condensed version of new miner training after being newly employed by a different mine, transferred to a new location, or returning to the mine after an absence of more than 12 months.

Specific training requirements for "experienced miners" can be found in 30 CFR Part 46.6 and Part 48.26.

Other training provisions of the Mine Act

- Health and safety training must be provided during normal working hours.
- Miners must be paid at their normal rate of pay while taking training.
- New miners must be paid at their starting wage rate when they take the new miner training.
- If training is given at a location other than the normal place of work, miners must also be compensated for the additional costs they may incur in attending training sessions.

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When each training program is completed, operators must certify, on a form approved by MSHA, that the miner has received the specified training in each subject area of the approved health and safety training plan. A certificate for each miner must be:

- Maintained by the operator and made available for inspection at the mine site.
- A copy of the certificate must be given to each miner at the completion of the training.

When miners leave a company, they are entitled to a copy of their health and safety training certificates.

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operations safe
and compliant.**

Recordkeeping

Compliance with MSHA's recordkeeping requirements is critical for mine operators and contractors working at surface and underground mines. Maintaining accurate and timely records is essential not only for regulatory compliance but also for promoting a safer mining environment and supporting accountability across mine operations.

Training documentation

Maintain records of all training sessions for:

- New miner training
- Newly hired experienced miner training
- Annual refresher training
- Task training
- Site-specific hazard awareness training

Use MSHA Form 5000-23 or equivalent for employee training records. They must be signed by the instructor and miner. Keep training records for at least 2 years (some recommend keeping for the duration of employment).

Contractors working on mine property are likewise required to complete and retain records of site-specific hazard training in compliance with Part 48.



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Inspection and maintenance records

Inspection and maintenance records may be required for certain equipment, safety systems, and workplace conditions. Examples include:

- Fire extinguishers and fire suppression systems
- Mobile equipment and brake systems
- Air quality sampling results (dust, gases, etc.)
- Electrical inspections
- Ground control plans and inspections
- Ventilation system checks (underground mines)

Beyond training and incident reporting, mine operators must also maintain records for site safety programs such as hazard communication (HazCom), hearing conservation, and respiratory protection.

Retention timeframes vary but typically range from 1 to 12 months, depending on the specific regulation.

Injury and illness reporting

One of the notable difference between MSHA and OSHA injury and illness reporting is the time sensitive reporting under MSHA.

Under 30 CFR Part 50 Mine Safety Reporting Requirements, mine operations must adhere to the following injury and illness reporting requirements:

- Within 15 minutes of a reportable accident (e.g., fatality, serious injury, entrapment), immediately notify MSHA of the incident.
- Form 7000-1: Report each accident, injury, or occupational illness within 10 working days.
- Form 7000-2: Submit quarterly employment and coal production reports.

Mine operators must keep copies of all reports for 5 years.



Injury and Illness Reporting

Operators and contractors shall report each accident, occupational injury, or occupational illness at the mine. The reporting requirement applies to operators and contractors of coal, metal, and nonmetallic mines.

Any injury to a miner which occurs at a mine for which medical treatment is administered, or which results in death or loss of consciousness, inability to perform all job duties on any day after an injury (Days Away From Work), temporary assignment to other duties (Days of Restricted Work Activity), or transfer to another job.

A Form 7000-1 shall be completed and mailed within ten working days after an accident or occupational injury occurs, or an occupational illness is diagnosed.

In addition, the operator shall immediately contact MSHA at once without delay and within 15 minutes at the toll-free number, 1-800-746-1553, once the operator knows or should know that an accident has occurred involving:

- (1) A death of an individual at a mine; (Reporting Deaths on Mine Property)
- (2) An injury to an individual at a mine which has a reasonable potential to cause death;
- (3) An entrapment of an individual for more than 30 minutes or which has a reasonable potential to cause death;
- (4) An unplanned inundation of a mine by a liquid or gas.
- (5) An unplanned ignition or explosion of gas or dust;
- (6) In underground mines, an unplanned fire not extinguished within 10 minutes of discovery; in surface mines and surface areas of underground mines, an unplanned fire not extinguished within 30 minutes of discovery;
- (7) An unplanned ignition or explosion of a blasting agent or an explosive;
- (8) An unplanned roof fall at or above the anchorage zone in active workings where roof bolts are in use; or, an unplanned roof or rib fall in active workings that impairs ventilation or impedes passage; Reporting Roof Falls



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- (9) A coal or rock outburst that causes withdrawal of miners or which disrupts regular mining activity for more than one hour;
- (10) An unstable condition at an impoundment, refuse pile, or culm bank which requires emergency action in order to prevent failure, or which causes individuals to evacuate an area; or, failure of an impoundment, refuse pile, or culm bank;
- (11) Damage to hoisting equipment in a shaft or slope which endangers an individual or which interferes with use of the equipment for more than thirty minutes; (Part 50 PPM – Hoisting) and
- (12) An event at a mine which causes death or bodily injury to an individual not at the mine at the time the event occurs.

Ensuring compliance with MSHA regulations is not just a legal obligation — it's a critical component of protecting your workforce and sustaining safe, efficient mining operations. By understanding and implementing proper training, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements outlined, mine operators and contractors can foster a proactive safety culture and reduce the risk of costly incidents.

Partner with the Experts to Strengthen Your MSHA Compliance Strategy

J. J. Keller's Mine Safety Training & Consulting Services are designed to help you meet complex safety requirements with confidence.

Our expert consultants provide:

- **On-site and virtual MSHA compliance audits** to identify gaps and reduce risk
- **Customized training programs** for Part 46 and Part 48 requirements
- **Policy and procedure review and development** tailored to your operation

With decades of experience and a deep understanding of MSHA regulations, our consultants become an extension of your team—helping you build a culture of safety and compliance that lasts.

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