

Surface Mobile Equipment Safety Program

Mine Safety and Health Administration



Safety Program for Surface Mobile Equipment - Standard

Purpose

- The purpose of the standard is to promote and support a positive safety culture and improve miners' safety at the mine.

Scope

- All production operators and part 45 independent contractors must have a written safety program for surface mobile equipment.
- The standard applies to surface mobile equipment at surface areas of underground coal mines and metal and nonmetal mines.

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Part 45 Independent Contractors

- Part 45 independent contractors have the same responsibilities as production operators.
- MSHA expects most independent contractors will develop and implement their own safety program or integrate their safety programs into the production operators' safety program.
- MSHA expects production operators and part 45 independent contractors to communicate and coordinate with each other on their respective safety programs.

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Surface mobile equipment includes:

- Wheeled, skid-mounted, track-mounted, or rail-mounted equipment capable of moving or being moved, and any powered equipment that transports people, equipment, or materials.
- The rule excludes belt conveyors and any manually powered tools such as wheelbarrows, hand carts, push carts, welding carts, cylinder carts basic hand trucks, or dollies.

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Requirements for Written Safety Program

- A written safety program includes actions taken to:
 1. Identify and analyze hazards and reduce the risks related to the movement and operation of surface mobile equipment.
 2. Develop and maintain procedures and schedules for routine maintenance and non-routine repairs for surface mobile equipment;
 3. Identify currently available and newly emerging feasible technologies that can enhance safety at the mine and evaluate whether to adopt them; and
 4. Train miners and other persons at the mine to identify and address or avoid hazards related to surface mobile equipment.
- Production operators and part 45 independent contractors must solicit input from miners and their representative in developing and updating the written safety program.

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Requirements for Written Safety Program

- Identify and analyze hazards and reduce the risks related to the movement and operation of surface mobile equipment.

A responsible person must evaluate and update the safety program at least annually or as:

- mining conditions or practices change that may affect miners safety or health;
- accidents or injuries occur; or as
- surface mobile equipment changes or modifications are made.

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Responsible Person

- Production operators and part 45 independent contractors must designate at least one person to evaluate and update the safety program.
- The responsible person must have experience and knowledge about mining conditions and processes necessary to evaluate and update the written safety program.
- Multiple persons can be designated as a responsible person.

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Requirements for Written Safety Program

- Develop and maintain procedures and schedules for routine maintenance and non-routine repairs for surface mobile equipment.
 - Procedures and schedules for maintenance and repairs can reflect or reference existing procedures and schedules.

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Requirements for Written Safety Program

- Identify currently available and newly emerging feasible technologies that can enhance safety at the mine and evaluate whether to adopt them.
 - Consider feasible technologies that are capable of being used successfully at the mine.
 - Demonstrate compliance by:
 1. attending industry meetings, or NIOSH and/or MSHA meetings that discuss available or newly emerging technologies;
 2. reviewing equipment vendor material; or
 3. attending mine safety and health conferences that include vendor exhibits and equipment demonstrations.

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Requirements for Written Safety Program

- Train miners and other persons at the mine to identify and address or avoid hazards related to surface mobile equipment.
 - Safety program training may be integrated into part 46 and part 48 training plans.

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Records and Inspection

Production operators and part 45 independent contractors must:

- make the written safety program available for inspection by MSHA, miners, and miners' representatives; and
- provide copies, upon request.

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Compliance Assistance

- MSHA will work with industry, labor, and other stakeholders to develop written safety program templates.
- MSHA will also provide the mining community training materials, best practices and guidance, and technical assistance.
- All compliance assistance materials will be posted on MSHA's website.

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Compliance Dates

- The final rule became effective on January 19, 2024.
- MSHA will enforce the standard on July 17, 2024.