

Amendment A08256 to Senate Bill 949, P.N. 2204

Trailing Cables

Requires examination of the exposed trailing cable at the beginning of each shift; remainder of cable shall be examined within one hour upon arrival of producing shift

Battery charging stations

Permits the split of air ventilating a storage battery charging station to be ventilated to a belt entry provided belt entry air is not used to ventilate working face and a carbon monoxide monitoring system is in place.

Underground electrical installations

Requires underground transformer stations, battery charging stations, substations, rectifiers and water pumps to be housed in noncombustible structures or areas or to be equipped with fire suppression systems.

Accompaniment

Permits a representative of the miner, selected by at least two miners, to accompany a state inspector on mine inspections. Requires the representative of the miner to be employed at the mine being inspected. The department may determine that more than one representative of the miners would further aid an inspection; however only one such representative shall suffer no loss of pay during their participation in the inspection.

Qualifications

Repeals requirement that a prospective miner provide a certificate as to his or her character and temperate habits.

Shafts

Requires the distance between emergency escape shafts to be no less than 200 feet, and the distance between openings to the surface of slopes and between drifts, to be no less than 50 feet. Permits exceptions to distance requirements with written consent of DEP. Permits the use of an escapeway capsule with a minimum capacity of two persons to meet the emergency hosting capability requirements of the act.

Pre-Shift Examinations

Specifies the frequency and details of pre-shift examinations of underground mine areas.

Track Distance

Where transportation of personnel is exclusively by rail, requires the track to be maintained to within 750 feet of the tailpiece on a longwall or nearest working face on development sections. Distance may be extended up to 1500 feet if a self-propelled transport vehicle with rubber tires is readily available to transport sick or injured miners.

Permits DEP to issue variances, provided that in all cases a self-propelled transport vehicle with rubber tires shall be readily available at all times.

Directs the Coal Mine Safety Board to determine the appropriateness of four specific exceptions to the track distance requirements. This determination shall be made within 14 days of the Board's organization, and will become effective upon the Board's approval of a proposed rulemaking, pending the completion of the rulemaking process.