



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 1501:14-2-05 Mine safety inspections of surface mining operations that are inspected by MSHA.

Effective: June 27, 2024

This rule applies to surface mining operations that are inspected by MSHA.

(A)

(1) If a surface mining operation is inspected by MSHA, the chief will conduct inspections of the operation only under the following circumstances:

(a) The operation is identified through a safety performance evaluation conducted under paragraph

(B) of section 1514.41 or section 1514.45 of the Revised Code or rule 1501:14-2-03 of the

Administrative Code as having three or more violations per day;

(b) A fatality of a miner or a life-threatening injury of a miner occurs at a surface mining operation as a result of an unsafe condition or a practice at the operation, as determined by the chief under division (C) or (D) of section 1514.41 of the Revised Code and paragraphs (C) and (D) of rule 1501:14-2-04 of the Administrative Code; or

(c) The chief determines, pursuant to paragraph (B)(3) of this rule, that the operator has failed to comply with a safety standard that was being violated and the chief, at his or her discretion and based on the severity of the violation or other safety factors, conducts additional mine safety inspections pursuant to paragraph (B)(3)(b) of this rule.

(2) If, pursuant to paragraphs (A)(1) of this rule, the chief conducts a mine safety inspection of a surface mining operation that is also inspected by MSHA, the chief will enforce the safety standards established and incorporated by reference in Chapter 1514. of the Revised Code and these rules but only review the mine safety training plan required under 30 C.F.R. part 46 insofar as to ensure that the operation has such a training plan.

(B)



(1) Except as otherwise provided in section 1514.44 of the Revised Code and paragraph (G) of this rule or pursuant to a safety audit conducted under section 1514.42 of the Revised Code, if, during a mine safety inspection, the chief finds a violation of a safety standard, the chief will write a violation that directs the operator to comply with the standard that is being violated within a reasonable period of time.

(2) If the chief finds a violation of a safety standard, the chief will return to the surface mining operation after a reasonable period of time only to determine if the operator has complied with the standard that was being violated.

(3) If the chief determines, under paragraph (B)(2) of this rule, that the operator has failed to comply with the standard that was being violated:

(a) The chief will take appropriate action, if necessary, in the form of an order of the chief to obtain compliance; and

(b) The chief may, at his or her discretion and based on the severity of the violation or other safety factors, conduct additional mine safety inspections of the entire surface mining operation pursuant to this rule.

(C) Except as otherwise provided in section 1514.44 of the Revised Code and paragraph (G) of this rule or pursuant to a safety audit conducted under section 1514.42 of the Revised Code, after completion of a mine safety inspection of a surface mining operation, the chief will prepare a report that:

(1) Describes the general conditions of the surface mining operation;

(2) Lists any hazardous conditions at the operation;

(3) Lists any violations of the safety standards established or incorporated by reference in these rules;
and



(4) Describes the nature and extent of any hazardous condition or violation found, the corresponding remedy for each hazardous condition or violation, and a reasonable period of time to remedy the hazardous condition or to comply with the safety standard that is being violated.

(D) The chief will provide two copies of the report prepared under paragraph (C) of this rule to the operator. The operator is to post one copy of the report at the operation for review by the employees of the operation.

(E)

(1) Except as otherwise provided in section 1514.44 of the Revised Code and paragraph (G) of this rule or pursuant to a safety audit conducted under section 1514.42 of the Revised Code, not later than ten days after receipt of a report under paragraph (D) of this rule, the operator may submit a written request to the chief for a meeting with the chief to review the findings contained in the report.

(2) Upon receipt of a request, the chief will review the report and schedule a meeting with the operator. Within a reasonable period of time after the meeting, the chief will make a written determination concerning the findings contained in the report and provide one copy of the determination to the operator of the surface mining operation and one copy of the determination to an authorized representative of the miners at the operation. If the chief makes a determination that affirms the findings contained in the report, the chief's determination constitutes an order of the chief for purposes of Chapter 1514. of the Revised Code and these rules.

(F) Before an operator may appeal the contents of a report prepared under paragraph (C) of this rule to the reclamation commission, the operator is to first submit a written request for a review by the chief as provided in paragraph (E)(1) of this rule. If, upon review of the findings in the report, the chief makes a determination that affirms the findings in the report, then the operator may appeal this determination to the reclamation commission in accordance with section 1514.09 of the Revised Code. The filing of a notice of appeal to the reclamation commission does not operate as a stay of any order, determination, or decision of the chief.

(G)



(1) If, during a mine safety inspection conducted under section 1514.41 of the Revised Code or this rule or during a safety audit conducted under section 1514.42 of the Revised Code, the chief finds a condition or practice at an operation that could reasonably be expected to cause the death of or imminent serious physical harm to an employee of the operation, the chief immediately will issue orders to:

(a) Safeguard the employees;

(b) Notify the operator of the condition or practice; and

(c) Require the operator to abate the condition or practice within a reasonable period of time.

(2) In all situations under paragraph (G)(1) of this rule, the chief may direct the operation to cease in the area in which the condition or practice is occurring or may direct the entire operation to cease, if necessary, until the condition or practice that could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical harm is eliminated.

(H)

(1) The chief will complete a report that describes:

(a) The condition or practice found under paragraph (G) of this rule;

(b) The action taken to abate the condition or practice, if applicable pursuant to paragraph (G)(1)(c) of this rule, or to eliminate the condition or practice, if applicable pursuant to paragraph (G)(2) of this rule; and

(c) The period of time that was given to abate or eliminate the condition or practice, as applicable.

(2) The chief will provide two copies of the report to the operator. The operator is to post one copy of the report at the operation for review by the employees of the operation.

(I) No operator shall violate or fail to comply with an order issued pursuant to this rule.