

voltmeter; or in case of a static charge, by an electrostatic voltmeter.

Methane is a hydrocarbon gas ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) frequently encountered in coal mines; when it is diffused through air in certain proportions of the mixture,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $14\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the mixture will explode in the presence of a flame or hot spark.

Mine includes the shafts, slopes, drifts or inclined planes connected with the excavations penetrating coal and/or fire clay stratum or strata, which excavations are ventilated by one general air current, and all appliances and equipment for hoisting and extracting coal and/or fire clay; and shall embrace any and all parts of the mining property and plant on the surface or underground, which contributes directly or indirectly to the mining or handling of coal and/or fire clay; and which is connected by one general system of mine railroads, over which coal and/or fire clay may be delivered to one or more points outside such mine. The word also includes a portion of a mine when the sense so requires. The provisions of this subtitle shall not apply to any mine employing less than five persons excepting that the provisions of Section 54, Chapter 7, Title V, Mine Management and Operations, requiring an annual report in such form as the Bureau may prescribe, shall apply to all mines without regard to the number of their employees.

Non-Gaseous Mine is a mine which has not been rated as gaseous; or a mine which, having been rated as gaseous, has been re-rated as non-gaseous as prescribed in the definition of a gaseous mine, elsewhere in this section.

Operator means any firm, corporation, association or individual operating any coal mine or part thereof, whether as an owner, lessee or otherwise, and also includes the representative of such operator.

Panel means a unit area in a system of mining by which the mine is divided into large rectangles or panels isolated or surrounded by solid pillars of coal into which pairs of entries are driven for the development of rooms and the extraction of pillars.

Permissible. Unless the context requires a different sense, "permissible" means the admission of a device, plan, formula, method, machine or course of action by the United States Bureau of Mines to a list, after actual test thereof.

Potential and Voltage. These words shall be taken as synonymous, to mean electric pressure as determined by the voltmeter.

Shaft means an opening, the axis of which is approximately vertical, extending downwards from the surface; and shall include an underground shaft driven between two levels.