

that there is another opening having a weak-wall stopping or explosion doors that would be in direct line with the forces coming out of the mine if an explosion occurs, such opening to be not less than 15 feet nor more than 100 feet from the fan opening. No main fan shall be placed inside any mine.

(c) Main mine fans shall be installed to permit the reversal of air flow and, unless the fan is attended constantly, an automatic device to give alarm when the fan slows down or stops. This device shall be placed so that it will be seen or heard by a responsible person. The fan of a gassy mine shall be on a separate power circuit, independent of the mine circuit.

(d) Main-fan installations shall be protected from wood fire, grass fire, and rubbish for at least 100 feet in all directions, from the fan installations where physical conditions permit.

The fan shall be inspected daily and a record kept of the inspection, which shall be open for inspection by interested persons. When the main fan of a gassy mine fails or stops, immediate action shall be taken to cut off the power and withdraw the men from the face regions of the mine. If ventilation is restored in a reasonable time, the face regions and other places where methane is likely to accumulate shall be re-examined by certified or capable supervisors, and if found to be free from explosive gas, power may be restored and work resumed. If ventilation is not restored in a reasonable time, all underground employees shall be removed from the mine.

Main fans shall be operated continuously except when the mine is shut down with all men out of the mine. In such event, after the fan has been started, the mine shall be examined for gas and other hazards and made safe before men, other than the examiners, are permitted in the mine.

100. Booster and auxiliary fans (a) After the effective date of this Act, the installation of booster fans shall not be permitted, unless after a finding by the Director of the Bureau of Mines, that such installation is necessary for the safe operation and proper ventilation of the mine, that it would not materially increase the hazard of the mine, and that such conditions and safeguards as he may prescribe will be complied with. In mines where such fans are now being used, their use may be continued, but they shall be surrounded with safeguards as follows: