

mine where work has not recently been carried on the operator first shall timber properly the entry, room, or other excavation, lay up track, and prepare the area for the work.

(b) The operator shall keep on hand at all times a sufficient quantity of materials, supplies, and facilities required by the provisions of this subtitle or rules and regulations pursuant to it in order to preserve the health and safety of each worker. Whenever he cannot procure any of the materials, supplies, or facilities when needed, he shall notify the mine foreman to withdraw the workers from the mine or any affected portion until the materials, supplies, or facilities are received.]

[7-444.

(a) Coal dust may not be permitted to accumulate excessively on roadways and along conveyor lines. If any mining operation raises an excessive amount of dust into the air, water or water with a wetting agent added to it or another effective method shall be used to allay the dust at its source.

(b) Every mine, except a mine or location in a mine in which the dust is too wet or high in incombustible content to propagate an explosion, shall be rock-dusted to within 60 feet of each active working face. Every open crosscut within the 60 foot zone shall be rock-dusted. However, if the dust is wet or becomes dry, the mine or portion affected shall be rock-dusted as soon as it becomes dry.

(c) In any partially rock-dusted mine or in a mine which is required to start rock-dusting, haulageways and parallel entries connected by an open crosscut shall be rock-dusted. Back entries shall be rock-dusted for at least 1,000 feet out from the junction with first active entry. At this junction, the rooms, entries, and crosscuts shall be rock-dusted by generalized rock-dusting as provided in subsection (a).

(d) Where rock dust is applied, it shall be distributed on the top, floor, and sides of each open place and maintained in a quantity so the incombustible content of the mine dust is not less than 65 percent.]

[7-445.

(a) If any working place is being driven towards, or is in supposedly dangerous proximity to, an abandoned mine suspected of containing explosive gas or which may contain a dangerous accumulation of water, a borehole shall be kept not less than 12 feet in advance of the face and on the sides of the working place. The side holes shall be driven diagonally at intervals not exceeding 8 feet. A working place driven to tap water or gas may not be more than 10 feet wide. Any water or gas accumulation, or borehole from

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