

(4) Tools for Opening Containers. Only nonmetallic tools may be used to open containers underground.

(1) (1) Manner of Exploding in General. In every mine, permissible explosives or permissible blasting devices shall be used for the blasting operation except as otherwise expressly provided. The use of permissible explosives shall comply with the following rules:

Rule 1 -- Fired only with electric detonators of proper strength.

Rule 2 -- Fired with permissible blasting units unless blasting is done from the surface.

Rule 3 -- Boreholes in coal may not be drilled beyond the back of the cut, nor into the solid rib, roof, or floor. Shooting off the solid is prohibited.

Rule 4 -- Boreholes shall be cleaned and checked to see that they are placed properly and are of the correct depth, in relation to the cut, before being charged.

Rule 5 -- To prevent a blow-through, each portion of the borehole where the height of the coal permits shall have a burden in every direction of at least 18 inches before being fired.

Rule 6 -- Each borehole shall be stemmed with at least 24 inches of incombustible material, or at least one half of the length of the hole shall be stemmed if the hole is less than four feet in depth.

Rule 7 -- In a gassy mine, an examination for gas shall be made immediately before and after firing each shot where onshift shooting is done.

(2) Charges Between One and One-Half Pounds and Three Pounds. Charges exceeding one and one-half pounds, but not exceeding three pounds, shall be used only if the borehole is six feet or more in depth; the explosive is charged in a continuous train, with no cartridges deliberately deformed or crushed, with all cartridges in contact with each other, and with the end cartridges touching the back of the hole and the stemming respectively; and Class A or Class B permissible explosives are used. The three pound limit does not apply to solid rock work such as solid rock tunnels.

(3) Firing Shots. A shot may be fired by any certified shot firer in a mine using coal-cutting equipment. The shot firer shall comply with the requirements of this subtitle pertaining to blasting. In any mine where charging or shooting is done on shift, each shot or group of simultaneous shots shall be fired immediately after it is charged.

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