

RULES GOVERNING THE SENTINELS OF SAFETY PROGRAM

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the annual Sentinels of Safety award program is to recognize achievement of outstanding safety performance, to stimulate greater interest in safety and to encourage development of more effective accident prevention programs among the nation's mineral (coal, metal and non-metal, stone, sand and gravel) mining operations. This program is sponsored by the National Mining Association (NMA). All active and intermittently active mineral mining operations required to report injury and employment data under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 are eligible to participate. Ten separate groups consisting of mining operations having similar characteristics are identified for the program. They are: underground coal mines, surface coal mines, coal processing facilities, underground metal mines, underground nonmetal mines, open pit mines (metal and nonmetal, except stone), open pit stone quarries, sand and gravel bank or pit operations, sand and gravel dredge operations and metal and nonmetal mills. Each of the above groups are further divided into large and small mine categories resulting in a total of twenty separate groups. The median hours worked at all mines in each group will be calculated by the NMA and will determine eligibility in the large and small categories. The median hours worked will define the upper limit for the small mine categories.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for an award, a mining operation must: (1) have reported employment data to MSHA for each quarter in which it was active during the calendar year (January 1 - December 31); (2) have not experienced a work injury in the subunits below that resulted in a fatality, permanent disability, days away from work or days of restricted work activity; (3) have a No Days Lost (NDL) injury incidence rate (degree 6) no greater than the national average for these same subunits; and (4) have accumulated at least 4,000 employee-

hours in these same subunits during the calendar year.

For mines in the underground groups, eligibility is determined from the hours-worked data reported on the MSHA Form 7000-2 (cumulated for the calendar year) in the underground subunit (subunit 01) and any associated surface shops and yards (subunit 02).

For the surface and open pit mines and quarries, eligibility is determined from the hours-worked data reported on the Form 7000-2 under the appropriate surface mining activity code (subunits 03, 04, and 06) including the associated shops and yards.

For the sand and gravel bank or pit group, eligibility is determined from the hours-worked data reported on Form 7000-2 under subunit code 03; and for the sand and gravel dredge group, eligibility is determined from the hours-worked data reported under subunit code 06.

For the coal processing facilities and metal and nonmetal mills group, eligibility is determined from the hours-worked data reported on Form 7000-2 under subunit code 30. For a coal processing facility to qualify, it must meet the definition of a facility that is under MSHA jurisdiction, where rock and/or other impurities are removed from the coal prior to it being transported for delivery.

Only data that was reported under a single MSHA ID number in a calendar year will be included. Employee-hours and injuries to independent contractors or at offices, culm banks, or other operations are excluded from the computations except in the case where there is a chargeable fatality at the mine site which will result in disqualification.

REPORTS REQUIRED

Mining operations potentially eligible for an award are identified solely from injury and employment data reported on the MSHA Forms 7000-1 and 7000-2 as required by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 and defined by 30 C.F.R Part 50.

VERIFICATION OF DATA

The Mine Safety and Health Administration will provide to the National Mining Association a list of operations meeting the Sentinels criteria. A letter will be mailed by NMA to the top five potential awardees advising them of their eligibility and requesting verification or correction of their employment and injury data, as reported to MSHA. To avoid errors on the award certificate, operators should indicate any corrections to the hours-worked data and to the operation's name and address as it appears preprinted on the verification letter.

FAILURE TO RETURN THE SIGNED VERIFICATION REQUEST BY THE DATE INDICATED MAY DISQUALIFY THE OPERATOR FROM CONSIDERATION FOR AN AWARD.

A mining operation potentially eligible to receive the Sentinel of Safety may be audited to avoid possible misinterpretation and to assure that all the award conditions have been met.

AWARDS

SENTINELS OF SAFETY TROPHY

A bronze trophy provided by NMA is awarded to the mining operation in each of the twenty groups having the lowest NDL injury incidence rate with the tie breaker being the most employee hours worked. The bronze trophy remains in the custody of the mining operation for approximately one year. The operation can then obtain a replica trophy, and the bronze trophy is then transferred to the following year's winning operation.

To be eligible for a trophy, an operation must be privately operated, i.e., not operated by a government agency, and must not be in abandoned status at the end of the calendar year.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN SAFETY

Certificates of Achievement in Safety are awarded to the top five operations in each category that have met all of the award criteria. Mines or quarries operated by a Federal, State, County, or Municipal agency also are eligible for Certificates of Achievement in Safety.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLICATION OF WINNERS

NMA will announce the Sentinels trophy winners and others awarded a Certificate of Achievement for outstanding safety records. Award winners will be identified in various publications and news releases.