

Fayette County Health Center
100 New Salem Road, Room 167
Uniontown, PA 15401
May 26, 2009

Bureau of Mine Safety

724-439-7469
Fax 724-439-7324

Re: Diesel Compartment Cleaning Drains

To All Diesel Equipment Manufacturers:

A discussion transpired at the April 8, 2009 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting that the Bureau of Mine Safety feels should be reviewed and addressed by all diesel equipment manufacturers with their future designs in order to enhance safety.

The area of concern is that the present designs of many pieces of diesel equipment do not allow for the proper cleaning and removal of all accumulations of combustible materials in hard to access areas of some compartments. When such equipment is washed, a combustible muck accumulates in tight access areas in the bottom of the compartments that can't be properly and totally removed during the cleaning operations. Over time, this combustible muck can build up and create a fire hazard since it can't be accessed in tight areas for complete removal.

The Bureau of Mine Safety directs that the manufacturers of diesel equipment incorporate in future designs the addition of an accessible drain plug at the bottom of such compartments that can be removed to allow the proper flushing and draining of all diesel engine compartments to ensure that all combustible materials can be completely removed. These future design changes shall also be incorporated in the existing equipment that is removed from service for rebuilding or reconditioning prior to being returned to service.

The Technical Advisory Committee supports this recommendation.

In conclusion, the Bureau of Mine Safety Equipment Approval Inspectors will be directed to examine all future units of diesel equipment for this feature.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Scaffoni
Director
Bureau of Mine Safety

cc: Ron Bowersox
Paul Borchick

bcc: Bituminous Mine Inspection Staff
Gaida
Pekar
Scarton
Martin
McCaffrey
Antoon
TAC File

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