



1 devices which may ignite gas shall not be used in return air,  
2 unless permission is granted by the director for a specified area.  
3 For the purpose of this provision, air used to ventilate a section  
4 of a mine shall not be considered return air until such time as the  
5 air has ventilated all of the workings in the section.

6 (c) *Qualified person to operate cutting machine.* -- No person  
7 shall be placed in charge of a coal-cutting machine in any mine who  
8 is not a qualified person, capable of determining the safety of the  
9 roof and sides of the working places and of detecting the presence  
10 of explosive gas, unless they are accompanied by a certified or  
11 qualified person who has passed such an examination.

12 (d) *Inspections.* -- In any mine no machine shall be brought in  
13 by the last breakthrough next to the working face until the machine  
14 man shall have made an inspection for gas in the place where the  
15 machine is to work. If explosive gas in excess of one percent is  
16 found in the place, the machine shall not be taken in until the  
17 danger is removed.

18 (e) *Indication of gas.* -- In working places a suitable  
19 approved apparatus for the detection of explosive gas, shall be  
20 provided for use with each mining machine when working, and should  
21 any indication of explosive gas in excess of one percent appear on  
22 any apparatus used for the detection of explosive gas, the person  
23 in charge shall immediately stop the machine, cut off the current  
24 at the nearest switch and report the condition to the mine foreman

1 or supervisor. The machine shall not again be started in such  
2 place until the condition found has been corrected and been  
3 pronounced safe by a certified person.

4 (f) *Periodic gas examinations.* -- No electric equipment shall  
5 be operated in a mine for a longer period than twenty minutes  
6 without an examination as above described being made for gas; and  
7 if gas is found in excess of one percent, the current shall at once  
8 be switched off the machine, and the trailing cable shall forthwith  
9 be disconnected from the power supply until the place is pronounced  
10 safe.

11 (g) *Operation of mining machines.* -- Machine runners and  
12 helpers shall use care while operating mining machines. They shall  
13 examine the roof of the working place to see that it is safe before  
14 starting to operate the machine. They shall not move the machine  
15 while the cutter chain is in motion.

16 (h) Automatic shut-down of mining machines. -- Mining machine  
17 extraction apparatus, including, but not limited to, long wall  
18 sheers and cutter heads, are required to be equipped with an  
19 automatic shut-off device that will cut off power to the machine's  
20 extraction apparatus, but not to the machine as a whole to  
21 facilitate proper mining procedures, if the methane level in the  
22 mine reaches one percent. The machine's apparatus shall not again  
23 be started in such place until the condition found has been  
24 corrected and been pronounced safe by a certified person.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require cutter heads, long wall shears, and other mining machines to automatically shut-off when the methane level reaches one percent to further protect health and well-being of our states miners.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.