March 20, 2013

Chief Inspector's Directive
Conveyor Belt Use in Non-Gassy Underground Mines

Objective:

The Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia requires, as per part 1.1.2, all work at a mine to be done without undue risk to the health or safety of any person. This Chief Inspector's directive replaces the May 5, 2010 directive on conveyor belts (attached).

Background:

The Chief Inspector of Mines requires conveyor belts used in non-gassy underground mines to obtain fire-resistance certification. In the past, conveyor belts had to meet the fire-resistance standards set out by the United States Department of Labour's Mine Safety and Health Administration. However, Carleton University's testing facility is now fully operational, and Canadian certification is available under CSA M422-12 (this Standard specifies fire-performance and antistatic requirements for new conveyor belting for use in any part of an underground mining operation).

Requirements:

Conveyor belts used in non-gassy underground mines in British Columbia must meet CSA M422-12's minimum standard of fire resistance. All conveyor belt use must comply with the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia (specifically, part 4.4.16).

Al Hoffman, P. Eng.
Chief Inspector of Mines

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BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

May 5, 2010

Chief Inspectors Directive

Conveyor Belts in an Underground Non-Gassy Mine

To all Inspectors of Mines:

Objective:

The Health safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia (Code) requires through section 1.1.2 that all work is done without undue risk to the health and safety of any person working in a mine.

The code requires *Conveyor Belting (Section 4.4.16(12)) for use in the transportation of coal or in an explosive atmosphere and in all underground locations shall meet the requirements of CSA Standard CAN/CSA-M422-M87 "Fire performance and Antistatic Requirements for Conveyor Belting" or an equivalent standard subject to approval by the Chief Inspector.*

Background:

Over the past years the Chief Inspector of Mines has accepted an equivalent standard for conveyor belting in an underground Non-Gassy Mine. If a belt manufacturer can demonstrate that the conveyor belting will meet the MSHA fire resistances rating, the Chief Inspector of Mines has accepted it for use in a underground Non-Gassy mines.

Requirements:

To ensure that all work is done without undue risk to the safety of all persons working at a mine, as required by section 1.1.2 of the *Mines Act, Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia*, the Chief Inspector will, until the revised CSA M422 is completed, accept conveyor belting in underground Non-Gassy mines that meets the MSHA standard for fire resistance.

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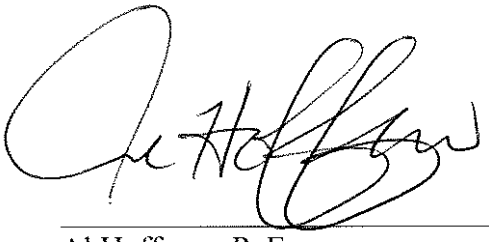
CSA Standard CAN/CSA-M422-M87, is currently being revised and when officially published and in effect, then this alternate use of the MSHA standard conveyor belting in underground Non-Gassy Mine will no longer be accepted.

For the time being, any conveyor belting that does not meet either the CSA Standard CAN/CSA-M422-M87 or the MSHA standard for fire resistance in an underground Non-Gassy Mine, will be in contravention of the aforementioned Act and Code.



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