

THE MINES RESCUE RULES, 1985

G.S.R. 325 (E) the 29th March, 1985.- Whereas the draft of the Mines Rescue Rules, 1984 was published as required by sub-section (1) of section 59 of the Mines Act, 1952 (35 of 1952), in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II Section 3- Sub-section (I) dated the 3rd July 1984 under the notification of the Government of India in the then Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour) No. G.S.R. 492(E) dated the 3rd July, 1984, inviting objections or suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby, till the expiry of a period of three months from the date of publication of the said notification in the Official Gazette;

And whereas the said Gazette was made available to the public on the 3rd July, 1984;

And whereas; the objections and suggestions received from the public on the said draft have been considered by the Central Government.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (a) to (1) and clauses (v) and (w) of section 58 of the said Act, the Central Government, after referring the said draft to the Mining Boards constituted under the said Act and after giving such Board a reasonable opportunity of reporting as to the expediency of making the said rules and as to the suitability thereof as required by sub-section (4) of section 59 of the said Act hereby makes the following rules, namely:-

CHAPTER I

Preliminary

1. Short title, application; and commencement:- (1) These Rules may be called the Mines Rescue Rules, 1985.
 - (2) They shall apply to below ground mines.
 - (3) They shall come into force on the 2nd April, 1985.
2. Definitions:- In these rules, unless there is any thing repugnant to the subject or context:-
 - (a) "Act" means the Mines Act, 1952;
 - (b) "below ground mine" means any excavation which extends below superjacent ground;
 - (c) "Board of Mining Examination" means the Board of Mining Examinations constituted under the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 or the Metalliferous Mines Regulation, 1961 as the case may be;
 - (d) "Chief Inspector" means the Chief Inspector of Mines appointed under section 5 of the Act;

- (e) “Foreman’s Certificate” means the foreman’s certificate granted by the Board of Mining Examination;
- (f) “Inspector” means an Inspector of Mines appointed under the Act, and includes a district magistrate when exercising any power or performing any duty of an; Inspector which he is empowered by the Act to exercise or perform;
- (g) “Instructor” means a person appointed as such under sub-rule (2) of rule 3.
- (h) “Manager” means a person appointed under section 17 of the act;
- (i) “Manager’s Certificate” means the manager’s certificate granted by the Board of Mining Examination ;
- (j) “Ordinarily employed” with reference to any mine or part thereof means the average number of persons employed per day in the mine or part of mine during the preceding calendar year (obtained by dividing the number of man-days worked by the number of working days excluding rest days and other non-working days);
- (k) “Overman’s Certificate” means the overman’s certificate granted by the Board of Mining Examinations;
- (l) “Owner” means a person; who is the immediate proprietor or lessees /or occupier of the mine or of any part thereof and in the case of amine the business where of is being carried on by a liquidator or receiver, such liquidator or receiver buy does not include a person who merely receives a royalty, rent or fine from the mine, or is merely the proprietor of the mine, subject to any lease; grant or licence for working thereof, or is merely the owner of the soil and ;not interested in the minerals of the mine ; but any contractor or sub-lessee for the working of a mine or part thereof shall be subject to the Act in like manner as if he was an owner, but not so as to exempt the owner from any liability;
- (m) “Principal Official” means the senior – most mine official in mining discipline on duty in the mine;
- (n) “Qualified medical practitioner “ means a medical practitioner who possess any recognised medical qualification as defined in clause (h) of section 2 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and who is enrolled on a State Medical register as defined in clause (k) of that section;
- (o) “rescue room” means a rescue room as established and maintained, under rules;
- (p) “rescue station” means a rescue station established and maintained under rule 3;
- (q) “rescue trained person” means a person certified by the Superintendent to be rescue trained person under sub –rule (1) of rule 21;
- (r) “Schedule” means a Schedule appended to these rules;
- (s) “Superintendent” means a superintendent of rescue station appointed under sub-rule (2) of rule 3.

CHAPTER II

RESCUE STATIONS AND RESCUE ROOMS

3. Establishment and location of rescue station;- (1) The Chief Inspector may permit or require; the owner of a below ground mine or a group of below ground mines to establish and maintain rescue station, stations with such designs and specifications and at; such place/ places as may be considered necessary in consultation with the owner:

Provided that where there are below ground mines belonging to more than one owner, the Chief Inspector may permit or require two or more owners to jointly establish a common rescue station:

Provided further that all the existing rescue stations as on the date of ;coming into force of these rule, shall continue to function for a period of three years from that date.

(2) At every rescue station there shall be appointed one Superintendent and at least two instructions and also, there shall be maintained a rescue brigade of not less tan eighteen rescue trained persons.

(3) In case where the absence of the Superintendent at a rescue station exceeds 60 days, the owner shall appoint another Superintendent.

(4)The owner shall, within seven days from the date of assumption or relinquishment of charge by the Superintendent , inform the Chief Inspector and ;the Inspector in-charge of the region where the mine is situated (hereinafter referred to as Regional Inspector) in Form I.

4. Functions of rescue stations:- The functions of rescue station shall include:-

- (i) imparting initial training in rescue and recovery work;
- (ii) imparting refresher training to rescue trained persons;
- (iii) providing support by its own rescue teams and equipment in case of major accidents or long-lasting rescue and recovery operations; and
- (iv) carrying out the functions of rescue room in respect of these below ground mines where there is no rescue room.

5.Establishment and location of rescue rooms:- (1) At every below ground mine where, more than 100 persons are ordinarily employed below ground and there is no rescue station within its radius of 35 kms. The owner, shall establish and ;maintain on surface close to mine entrance a rescue room:

Provided that it may be sufficient to provide one rescue room for a number of mines belonging to the same owner where:-

- (a) the total number of persons ordinarily employed in below ground workings of all such mines does not exceed 5000; and

(b) The mines are situated radius of 35 kms. From and connected by road with the rescue room :

Provided further that the Chief Inspector may permit the owner of a group of mines having the total number of persons ordinarily employed below ground in excess of 5000, to use the rescue room as a rescue station excepting the functions of imparting initial training in rescue work, if such rescue room is :-

- (a) equipped with requisite additional rescue apparatus including at least 15 extra sets of two hour self- contained breathing apparatus; and
- (b) placed under the charge of a person holding the qualifications prescribed under rule 8 and a minimum of five rescue trained persons of whom at least one shall hold the qualifications prescribed under rule 10, are posted thereat.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (1) in the case of below ground coal mines having a fiery seam or gassy seam of second or third degree, the Chief Inspector may, for reasons to be recorded in writing require the owner to establish and maintain a rescue room irrespective of the number of persons ordinarily employed below ground therein.

(3) At each rescue room, there shall be appointed such number of rescue trained persons as may be necessary and one of them possessing the qualifications specified in rule 10 shall be made incharge of the rescue room. At least one rescue trained person shall always be in attendance at the rescue room.

6. Functions of rescue room:- A rescue room shall provide facilities for the storage, assembly, testing and adjustments of breathing apparatus and other rescue equipment and apparatus and for their speedy transport to mines.

7. Qualifications, experience etc. of Superintendent:- After coming into force of these rules, no person shall be appointed as Superintendent unless he:-

- (j) is a rescue trained person ;
- (ii) has 5 years practical experience of below ground work in mines; and
- (iii) holds a First Class Manager's Certificate of a type not restricted to open cast workings.

8. Qualifications, experience etc., of Instructors:- After; the coming into force of these rules no person shall be appointed as Instructor unless he:-

- (i) is a rescue trained person;
- (ii) has 3 years practical experience of blow ground work in mines; and
- (iii) holds a Manager's certificate of a type not restricted to open cast workings.

9. Selection of rescue trained persons for posting at rescue stations:- (1) After coming into force of these rules the rescue trained persons for posting at a rescue station shall be selected, from amongst the rescue trained persons employed in mines served by the rescue station, by the Superintendent in consultation with the managers of such mines.

(2) A person selected under sub-rule (1) shall be posted for not less than one year and not more than five years at a rescue station at any one time.

10. Qualifications, experience etc. of rescue room incharge:- No person shall be appointed as rescue room incharge unless he:-

- (i) is a rescue trained person;
- (ii) has 3 years practical experience of below ground work in mines ; and
- (iii) holds a Manager's , Overman's or Foreman's Certificate of a type not restricted to open cast workings.

11. Equipments:- (1) At every rescue station there shall be provided and maintained for immediate use, apparatus and equipment as specified in Schedule I.

(2) At every rescue room there shall be provided and maintained for immediate use, apparatus and equipment as specified in Schedule II.

(3) At a below ground mine, where no rescue room is located, apparatus and equipment as specified in Schedule III, shall be maintained at the entrance of such mine.

(4) Self- contained breathing apparatus provided at a rescue station and that at rescue rooms under it shall be of the same type and make.

(5) The following apparatus and equipments provided in pursuance of sub-rules (1), (2) and (3), shall be of a type or standard approved by the Chief Inspector, namely:-

- (a) breathing apparatus;
- (b) smoke helmets and apparatus serving the same purpose;
- (c) reviving apparatus;
- (d) electric safety lamps and flame safety lamps;
- (e) gas detector; and
- (f) self rescuers.

(6) All breathing apparatus and every flow meter shall be adjusted; and tested and the purity of oxygen for use in breathing apparatus shall be tested in such manners as are laid down in Schedule IV.

(7) In case of an accident in a below ground mine arising out of the use of any rescue apparatus, a written report thereof shall be sent, within 24 hours of such accident, by the manager of the mine to the Chief Inspector and Regional Inspector in Form II appended to mines rules.

(8) In case of an accident in a rescue station or rescue room arising out of the use of any rescue apparatus a written report thereof shall be sent, within 24 hours of such accident, by the Superintendent to the Chief Inspector and Regional Inspector in Form II aforesaid.

(9) No absorbent charges, chemicals, self-rescuer and gas detector tubes shall be kept at a rescue station, rescue room or below ground mine for use beyond the expiry date, which shall be legibly marked on the boxes thereof.

CHAPTER III

Duties and responsibilities of superintendents etc.

12. Duties and responsibilities of Superintendent.- (1) The Superintendent shall be in overall control of the rescue station and the rescue rooms served by such rescue station.

(2) The Superintendent shall ensure that all the rescue equipment and apparatus kept at the rescue station, rescue rooms and at the entrance of the below ground mines under his control are-

- (a) maintained in perfect working order;
- (b) inspected by Instructors at specified intervals; and
- (c) tests are conducted and adjustments are made.

(3) The Superintendent shall ensure that adequate stock of spare parts and supplies are kept for maintaining rescue equipment and apparatus in perfect working order.

(4) The Superintendent shall countersign the records maintained under sub-rule (1) of rule 13.

(5) The Superintendent shall ensure that persons selected for initial training and those undergoing refresher training receive the prescribed course of instructions and practices and are issued the credit certificates for the same.

(6) The Superintendent shall make periodical inspection rescue rooms and the apparatus and equipment under his control.

(7) In the event of an emergency at a below ground mine, Superintendent shall perform such rescue and recovery work as may be assigned to him by the manager or in his absence by the principal official present at the surface. He shall within three days of completion of the rescue or recovery work send a report thereof to the Regional Inspector or the Chief Inspector.

(8) The Superintendent shall maintain in a bound paged book a diary and shall record therein the results of each of his inspections and also the action taken by him to rectify the defects observed during inspection.

(9)The Superintendent shall submit to the Chief Inspector and to the Regional Inspector detailed report on the functioning of the rescue station and rescue rooks under his control in the preceding year on or before the 20th day of February of the succeeding year with particular reference to :-

- (a) type and number of equipment and apparatus provided and maintained;
- (b) Superintendent, instructors, rescue room Incharge and rescue brigades in position, as on the 31st December;
- (c) Number of rescue trained persons at each below ground mine served by the rescue station and number of such persons given refresher practices and medically examined, with results thereof;
- (d) Particulars of emergencies attended;
- (e) Any other relevant matter.

13.Duties of Instructors:- (1) Under the direction of Superintendent the Instructor shall-

- (a) impart course of instructions and practices to persons selected for training in rescue and recovery work as well as to rescue trained persons and maintain a record thereof; and
- (b) make inspection, test and adjustment of rescue equipment and apparatus and maintain a record thereof.

(2)In the event an emergency at a below ground mine, Instructors shall perform such rescue and recovery work as may be assigned to him by the manager or in his absence by the principal official present at the surface.

(3)Instructor shall not leave the rescue station without prior permission of the Superintendent.

(4)In the absence of the Superintendent, the Instructor shall be incharge of the rescue station.

14.Duties and responsibilities of rescue room incharge:- Every rescue room incharge shall-

- (a) display prominently a list of mines served by his rescue room;
- (b) maintain the equipment and apparatus kept at the rescue room in perfect order;
- (c) maintain a proper record of all rescue equipment and apparatus kept at the rescue room and inspection thereof; and
- (d) not allow any unauthorised person; to enter into, or permit any unauthorised person to take out any apparatus or equipment from the rescue room.

15.Duties of rescue trained persons posted at rescue station:- The rescue trained person shall-

- (a) obey order of the Superintendent and Instructor and assist them in discharge of their functions;
- (b) attend to messages, telephone calls and wireless and maintain record thereof;
- (c) maintain the rescue station in neat and tidy condition;
- (d) maintain the equipment and apparatus kept at the rescue station in perfect order;
- (e) perform rescue and recovery work in mines; and
- (f) not leave rescue station without obtaining permission from the Superintendent.

16.Duties of rescue room attendant :- Every rescue room attendant shall-

- (a) not leave the rescue room until relieved by a substitute;
- (b) not allow any unauthorised person to enter in or to take out any apparatus or equipment from the rescue room;
- (c) attend to telephone calls and maintain a record thereof;

- (d) maintain the rescue room in neat and tidy condition; and
- (e) obey orders of the rescue room incharge and assist him in discharge of his functions.

CHAPTER IV

Organisation and equipment in mines

17. Telephone Communication – Every mine shall be connected telephonically with the rescue room and rescue station serving the mine. Wherever practicable wireless communication shall also be provided:

Provided that where there is no telephonic communication system, the Chief Inspector may by an order in writing and subject to such conditions as he may specify therein, approve any other means of communication.

18. Rescue tracings:- There shall be kept at a below ground mine, more than three legible tracings of the working of the mine upto a date not before three preceding months. The tracing shall show the system of ventilation in the mine, and in particulars, the general direction of air current, every point where the quantity of air is measured, every air-crossing, ventilation-door stopping, booster fan and any other principal device for regulation and distribution of air, fire-dams, preparatory stoppings, every fire-fighting equipment, every water-dam with dimensions and other particulars of construction, every pumping, telephone and ambulance station, every room used for storing inflammable material, reserve stations and every haulage and travelling roadway.

19. Appointment of rescue trained persons in mines, their disposition and accommodation:- (1) The manager of a below ground mine, where more than 100 persons are ordinarily employed below ground, shall ensure that at least 5 rescue trained persons are readily available at surface at any time.

(2) The manager of a below ground mine, where more than 500 persons are ordinarily employed below ground, shall also ensure that persons on a scale of one man for every 100 persons or part thereof are rescue trained persons.

(3) It shall be the responsibility of the owner to provide suitable accommodation:-

- (i) close to the rescue station to the Superintendent, Instructors and members of rescue brigade;
- (ii) close to rescue room to rescue room incharge rescue trained persons and attendants attached to it; and
- (iii) close to below ground mine entrance to rescue trained persons other than those specified in (i) and (ii).

(4) There shall be provided at a below ground mine effective bell or other arrangements, as may be approved by the Regional Inspector, for immediate summoning of rescue trained persons.

20. Selection of persons for training in rescue work:- No person shall be selected for training in rescue work, unless:-

- (i) he is between 21 and 30 years of age and holds a valid First-aid certificate of the standard of the St. John Ambulance Association (India);
- (ii) he is certified by the Manager that he has sufficient underground experience for the purpose of rescue work;

(iii) he is certified by a qualified medical practitioner, as may be designated by the Manager after examination in accordance with Schedule VI, to be free from any organic disease or weakness and to be fit for undertaking rescue work; and

(iv) he is considered by the Superintendent of Rescue Station, after such examination and interview as he considers necessary, to be suitable for rescue work with breathing apparatus.

21. Instructions and practices etc.-(1) Every person selected for training in rescue work shall undergo the course of instructions and practices as set out in Part I of Schedule VII until he has passed and has; been certified as efficient by the Superintendent .

(2) Rescue trained person shall undergo practices and receive instructions as set out in Part II of Schedule VII.

(3) A record shall be kept at every rescue station of all persons undergoing practices and receiving instructions. Such record shall contain:-

- (i) the date and the character of each practice:
- (ii) the condition of each person after the practice, and if anything abnormal was observed in his condition, whether it was due to a defect of the apparatus or to that person ;and
- (iii) any other relevant information.

22. Medical examination etc. of rescue trained person:- Every rescue trained person shall be re-examined once at least in every twelve months by a qualified medical practitioner as may be designated by the manager in accordance with Schedule VI, and in case he is declared medically unfit, he shall cease to be a rescue trained person with effect from the date he has been so declared.

23. Suspension of rescue trained persons:- If in the opinion of the owner, agent, manager or an Inspector a rescue trained person is incompetent or is guilty of negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duties, the owner, agent, manager or Inspector as the case may be, may after giving such person an opportunity to give a written explanation, suspend him from or debar him for, undertaking any rescue and recovery work.

CHAPTER V

Conduct of rescue work

24. Duties of Manager etc. in emergency:- (1) On receiving information of any emergency likely to require the services of a rescue team, the manager, or in his absence the Principal Official present at the surface, shall immediately:-

- (a) inform the rescue room or the rescue stations serving the mine for necessary assistance;
- (b) summon rescue trained person employed in the mine;
- (c) inform the owner, agent or manager of nearby mines to make available the services of rescue trained persons employed therein: if so required;
- (d) inform the rescue station about the nature of the occurrence; stating whether assistance would be needed from the rescue station;
- (e) summon medical assistance; and
- (f) send information of the occurrence to the Regional Inspector.

(2) All rescue and recovery work at a below ground mine shall be conducted under the control, direction and supervision of the manager of the mine or in his absence the principal official present at the surface.

Provided that in the event of a major emergency, such as ignition, explosion, big underground fire or an accident involving a number of persons, the manager or the principal official shall, in taking decisions regarding rescue and recovery operations, take guidance from a group consisting of a Senior Official of the management a representative each from the Director General of Mines Safety, concerned rescue station and the recognised Union of the Workers, so however that he must take necessary decisions and direct the operations as the situation warrants, without waiting for the constitution or deliberations of the said group.

25. Accommodation at the below ground mine for persons engaged in rescue work:- Whenever rescue trained persons are engaged in rescue or recovery work at a below ground mine, they shall be provided at such mine suitable accommodation for storage and charging of apparatus required for that work. Such accommodation shall be situated at a convenient place near the entrance in use, and shall be properly ventilated and lighted. Adequate quantity of cool and wholesome drinking water shall be provided at such accommodation; and proper canteen facilities shall also be provided for the rescue workers.

26. Entry into below ground mines for rescue or recovery work:- (1) No person shall be allowed to enter a below ground mine or part thereof which is unsafe for the purpose of engaging in rescue or recovery work, unless authorised by the manager or in his absence by the principal official of the mine present at the surface. Only rescue trained persons shall be permitted to enter the mine for the purpose of using self-contained breathing apparatus.

(2) During the course of rescue or recovery work, person or persons shall be stationed at the entrance to the below ground mine and shall keep a written record of all persons entering and leaving such mine, and the time thereof.

27. Fresh air bases:- (1) As soon as possible, base or bases shall be established in fresh air, as near to the irrespirable zone or zones as safety permits, Every such base shall, if possible be connected by telephone:

- (i) if the base is below ground to the surface ; or
- (ii) if the base is on the surface, to the shaft bottom.

(2) Except in cases where the delay involved may result in danger to life, rescue trained persons shall not proceed beyond any place where a base is to be established until there have been provided at such base:-

- (a) two persons, of whom one shall be a qualified medical practitioner if practicable, and other shall be a rescue trained person;
- (b) a spare team; with rescue apparatus, ready for immediate service;
- (c) one or more reviving apparatus, oxygen revivers etc,
- (d) first aid box and stretcher,
- (e) means of testing for carbon monoxide;
- (f) a hygrometer; and
- (g) two flame safety lamp.

(3)Whenever men are already at work beyond the fresh air base, there shall be provided at the base as soon as possible the persons, apparatus and equipments specified sub –rule (2)

28.Leader:- Every rescue team engaged in work with breathing apparatus in a mine shall be under a leader who shall be appointed by the Superintendent.

29.Instructions to leader:- Prior to sending a rescue team underground, the Superintendent or a person authorised by him shall give clear instructions to the leader of the team as to where it shall go and what it shall attempt.

30.Test of apparatus:- Before proceeding below ground the leader shall test or witness the testing of self-contained breathing apparatus of the team for leakage. No such apparatus shall be used unless it is found safe. He shall check the equipment of his party, and immediately before entering irrespirable atmosphere shall make sure that all breathing apparatus are working properly.

31.Duties of leader below ground : (1) The leader shall not engage in manual work. He shall give his attention solely to directing the team and to maintaining its safety. He shall examine the roof and supports during the journey, and if there is any likelihood of fall at any place along the roadway, shall not proceed further until the team has made the place secure.

(2)The leader shall keep the team together and shall not allow any member of the team to stray.

(3).If the atmosphere is clear, the leader shall, when passing the junction of two or more roadways, clearly indicate the route by means of arrow marks in chalk. If the atmosphere is obscure, the leader shall see that a life line is laid in from the fresh air base, and shall not allow any member of the team to move out of reach of that line; or, if that course is impracticable, he shall not proceed until every roadway branching off from the route is fenced across the whole opening.

(4).When using rescue apparatus, the leader shall carry a watch, shall record the pressure of the compressed oxygen at intervals of 20 minutes or so, and shall commence the return journey in ample time. During travelling he shall adopt the pace of slowest member, if any member of the team is in distress, shall immediately return to the fresh air base with the whole team.

(5).The leader shall not permit any member of the team using breathing apparatus in a mine to remain at work at any one time for a period longer than one and half hours or such other period as may be specified by the Chief Inspector in respect of the breathing apparatus being used.

32.Rescue team members and their duties:- (1) The number of persons in any rescue team using breathing apparatus in a mine shall not be less than five nor more than six, including the leader.

(2).In case there is no provision in any of the breathing apparatus carried by the rescue team for an extension for supply of oxygen to another person in an emergency, the team shall carry a self rescuer.

(3).Members of rescue team shall in general, use the signals prescribed in Schedule VIII in communicating to one another.

(4).In travelling with rescue apparatus on, every member of the team shall keep the place given to him when numbering off. If the pace is too quick or if distress is felt, the member shall at once call attention to the fact.

(5).Every member of a rescue team engaged in work with breathing apparatus in amine shall obey the order of the leader of the team.

33.Restriction of second spell of works:- No person shall commence a second or ;subsequent spell of work in irrespirable atmosphere without being examined and found fit by a qualified medical practitioner.

CHAPTER VI

Miscellaneous

34.Obligation of owner, agent and manager in certain situations:- Whenever emergency arises at a below ground mine, whether served by a rescue room or rescue station or not, the owner, agent or manager may seek assistance or additional assistance as the case may be from the nearest rescue room or rescue station and in such an event:-

- (a) all possible assistance shall be promptly rendered by the rescue room or rescue station; and
- (b) the owner of the mine shall pay to the owner of the rescue station or rescue room, rendering such assistance, the full cost of rescue services and facilities borrowed.

35.General management:- It shall be the responsibility of the owner to establish, maintain and ensure proper functioning of rescue room or rescue station as required under these rules, to appoint Superintendent, instructors, rescue room incharge, rescue trained persons, and to provide necessary rescue equipment and apparatus as may be necessary for compliance with the provisions of these rules.

36.Inspections:- (1) The Chief Inspector or other Inspector, authorised by him in his behalf or the Regional Inspector may enter, inspect and examine any rescue station and rescue room and make such examination or inquiry as he thinks fit in order to ascertain whether the provisions of these rules and of any orders made thereunder are being complied with.

(2).When the below ground mines served by a rescue station or rescue room fall under the jurisdiction of two or more Regional Inspectors, the Chief Inspector may authorise any one of them for enforcement of these rules.

37.Power to relax:- Where in the opinion of the Chief Inspector, the conditions pertaining to a mine or rescue station or rescue room are such as to render compliance with any provisions contained in these rules, unnecessary or impracticable, he may by an order in writing and subject to such conditions as he may specify therein grant exemption from the said provisions.

38.Repeal and saving :- (1) The Coal Mines Rescue Rules, 1959 are hereby repealed.

(2).Not withstanding such repeal anything done or any action taken under the said rules shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of these rules.

FORM I

[See rule 3(4)]

Intimation of appointment etc. of Superintendent.

From

To

1. The Chief Inspector of Mines,
Dhanbad-826001.
2. The Regional Inspector of Mines,

Sir,

I have to furnish the following particulars in respect of appointment/termination of appointment of Superintendent atrescue station of.....(Owner)

- 1.Name of Superintendent.....
- 2.Qualifications (a) First Class Manager's (Coal/Metalliferous*) Certificate No.....
(b)Number of Certificate of Competency in undertake Rescue and Recovery work.....
(c)First-aid Certificate No.....
- 3.Date of assumption/relinquishment of charge.....
- 4.Address of Superintendent

Yours faithfully,

Place.....
Date.....

Signature
Owner

-
- Delete whatever is not applicable.

FORM II

[See rule 11 (7)]

Notice of accident

From.....

To

- 1.The Chief Inspector of Mines,
Dhanbad –826001.
- 2.The Regional Inspector of Mines,

Sir,

I have to furnish the following particulars of an accident at.....mines/rescue station/rescue room of(owner).

1.Situation of mines/rescue station/rescue room	Name and postal address of owner	Village Station District State	Post Office Sub-Division	Police (Taluqa)
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2.Date and hour of accident	Place of location of accident in mine/rescue station/ rescue room*	Number of persons	
		Killed	Seriously Injured

3.Cause and description of accident

4.Name of persons killed/injured	Nature of employment	Age	Sex	Nature of injury/ cause of death.
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Yours faithfully,

Signature
Designation-Manager/Superintendent

Place.....
Date.....

*Delete whatever is not applicable.

SCHEDULE I

[See rule 11(1)]

Equipment to be kept at a Rescue Station

	Nos.
A. BREATHING APPARATUS	
1. Two-hours self –contained breathing apparatus	54
2. Short duration self-contained breathing apparatus	6
3. Absorbent charges	2,000
B. RESUSCITATING APPARATUS	
1. Resuscitating Apparatus	12
2. Spare cylinders	8
C. TUBE APPARATUS	
(a) Pressure type with belows	2
(b) Spare helmets	2
(c) Pressure type with fan	1
D. ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT	
1. Oxygen cylinders	12
2.(a) Oxygen pump (hand driven)	4
(b) Oxygen pump (power driven)	2
3. Bobin meter	3
4. Flow meter	2
5. Universal tester	2
6. Pressure gauge testing device	2
7. Oxygen testing apparatus	1
8. Apparatus testing tool kit	8
E. LAMPS ETC. AND GAS TESTING DEVICE	
1. Flame safety lamps with maintenance kit	8
2. Electric safety lamps	

**S 23016/1/2006/ DMRS
Govt. of India**

**Ministry of Labour & Employment
Directorate-General of Mines Safety**

Statutory order No. 1 of 2007

Dhanbad, Dated 5th January, 2007

To

The Owners, Agents, Managers of all Coal Mines and
All Inspectors of Mines

**Subject: Order under Regulation 191D (1) of the Coal Mines Regulations,
1957, on type of self-rescuers to be used in belowground workings of
coal mines.**

I, M. M. Sharma, Chief Inspector of Mines, by virtue of powers conferred on me under sub-regulation (1) of the Regulation 191D of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, hereby require that henceforth Filter type Self Rescuers shall not be used in belowground workings having third degree and second degree gassy seams and also seams with history of fire or spontaneous heating. In such mines only Self Contained type or Oxygen type Self-Rescuers shall be provided with and carried.

Further, with effect from 30th September, 2007 no further approval for Filter type Self Rescuers shall be granted / renewed and thereafter the self rescuers required to be provided under Regulation 191D (1) of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 shall be of Self Contained type or Oxygen type.

sd/-

(M. M. Sharma)

Chief Inspector of Mines

Ministry of Labour & Employment
Directorate-General of Mines Safety

DGMS (Tech.) Circular No.2 of 2007. 999 – 1600 Dhanbad, Dated the 23rd March 2007.

To,
The Owners, Agents and Managers of all Coal Mines,
Manufactures/Suppliers of Approved type of Self Contained Self Rescuers,
All Inspecting Officials of the Directorate.

Sub: Protocol on use, care , maintenance, sampling & testing of Self Contained Self Rescuer (SCSR) under Regulation 191D(2) & (3) of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957.

In view of the limitations of the Filter Self-Rescuer as an escape device and in pursuance to the recommendation of the ninth conference on safety in mines as well as the New Kenda Court of Enquiry, a meeting of users, regulators, scientific institutions, academicians and manufacturers/suppliers was held on 16th March'2004 to consider introduction of SCSR in Indian mines. As decided in the meeting a "committee" representing users, regulators, scientific institutions and academicians was constituted to recommend mode of introduction of SCSR.

The committee recommended "use of self Contained or Oxygen type self Rescuer (SCSR) in all degree III & degree II gassy mines and in all fiery mines to be enforced with immediate effect". Based on the recommendation of the said committee a statutory Order under Regulation 191D of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 was issued on 5th January, 2007.

To ensure proper quality of supply, efficient use, care and maintenance of SCSR a comprehensive protocol on its use, care, maintenance , sampling and testing, as suggested by the working group constituted for the purpose and the manufacturer/suppliers, has been formulated as mentioned below. It is expected that the "protocol" would be religiously implemented by all concerned: -

A. USE, CARE & MAINTENANCE:

1. The Owner, Agent and Manager of a mine with below ground workings, up to the travel time of one hour, shall **ensure** that the **rated duration** of the self Contained Self Rescuer (SCSR), provided to any person, is not less than one hour. However, in respect of workings with more than one hour travel time adequate number of SCSR (not less than the maximum attendance of the largest shift) shall be placed at suitably designed "Safe Haven" or "Refuse Chambers" located at convenient point(s).
2. Contrary to the above, use of SCSR of rated duration less than 60 minutes and up to 30 minutes for a specific district or panel of the mine may be permitted, on request of the Owner/Agent/Manager of the mine in writing, by the concerned Regional Inspector of Mines.
3. Every person required to go down the mine shall be provided with a belt / harness of suitable design to enable him to carry the SCSR as well as other gadgets conveniently on his body.

4. Special racks of suitable design shall be provided for storage. The storage area should be away from heat source. Units shall be cleaned regularly with wet cloth, in no case organic solvents shall be used for cleaning of the SCSR.
5. Every unit in use shall be subjected to “**daily visual check**” for the seals (intact or not), leakage indicator (change in colour), clamps (for any damage), belt loop (for any damage) and container (for any damage or dent). Units found O.K. in visual check only shall be issued and used. Damaged/defective unit shall be immediately withdrawn from use and be kept separately.
6. Every SCSR on roll of the mine shall be subjected to “ **Leak Tightness Test**”, at least **once in a quarter** by a competent person duly authorised by the manager for the purpose, in the following manner :
 - i. Place the apparatus inside the text box ;
 - ii. Put the lever down to the slotted place;
 - iii. Close the lid of the box tightly;
 - iv. Release lever to its original place to create vacuum of about 20 mb as displayed in the attached pressure / vacuum gauge &
 - v. Watch the pressure / vacuum gauge for a minute, if the drop in the reading is less than 5mb the unit is considered to be leak tight and is fit to use or else the unit shall be treated as failed and shall be withdrawn from the use.
7. Test result in respect of “**daily visual check**” and “**Leak Tightness Test**” with regard to each & every unit shall be recorded in a bound-paged register kept for the purpose. Every entry shall be signed by the person who has conducted the test and to be counter signed by the manager or any other official authorised by him in this regard.
8. The Manager shall prepare a code of practice for storage, use, care and maintenance of the SCSR based on the model code provided by the Owner.
9. As far as practicable use of one type of SCSR shall be preferred in a mine.

B. SAMPLING & TESTING:

- 1.1 **At the time of supply** : Before a batch of SCSR units are put to use samples at the rate of three percent (3%) subject to a minimum of nine units, for every batch of supply shall be drawn at random for the testing by a joint sampling team comprising of representatives from manufacturer / supplier and user at the user's site.
- 1.2 Fifty percent (50 %) of the above drawn sample (subject to a minimum of six units) shall be sent to any of the approved / accredited laboratories for full bench test as per **EN 401** or equivalent Indian Standard and rest of the sample units (subject to a minimum of three) shall be subjected to practical performance test for the rated duration and the users comfort at the nearest Rescue Station.
- 1.3 The batch of supply for which all the test result of the samples(100%)are found satisfactory shall only be put to use. In case of unsatisfactory test result even for a single sample, either at the laboratory or in the practical performance test, the entire batch of supply shall not be accepted for use.

1.4 Results of the above stated Laboratory test as well as practical performance test, duly counter signed by the mine owner or any person authorized by him for this purpose shall be recorded at owner's office. A copy of the said test result shall also be kept at the mine office and shall be made available for inspection , up to the shelf life of the apparatus. All test results with unsatisfactory performance of sample , whether in the laboratory or in the practical performance test, shall also be forwarded by the concerned mine owner and the concerned manufacturer to the Chief Inspector of the Mines (also designated as Director General of Mines Safety).

2.0 To ensure functional ability :

2.1 To ensure the functional ability 1% of the total units under use of a particular make and type shall be drawn randomly every year for test subject to a minimum of one unit for each make and type.

2.2 The sample thus collected shall be tested at any of the approved / accredited laboratories for the following parameters as per the specifications of EN 401 or equivalent Indian standard (at 35 ltr/min. during the rated duration):-

Parameter	Acceptance Level
Rated duration (as per label)	Not less than 90% of specified duration
Inhalation Oxygen concentration (% by vol.)	Not less 21*
Inhalation carbon dioxide concentration (% by vol.)	Not more than 2.5 #
Maximum Inhalation air temperature dry bulb	Not more than 55° C
Inhalation breathing resistance	Not more than 12 mbar
Exhalation breathing resistance	Not more than 12 mbar

* A short term deviation to a level of not less than 17% for a period of not more than 2 minutes at the beginning of the test is permissible.

Through out the rated duration of the apparatus the Carbon dioxide concentration of the inhaled air shall not exceed an average value of 2.5% (by vol.) and at no time shall exceed 3.0 % (by vol.).

3. Results of the above stated functional ability test, duly counter signed by the mine manager, shall be recorded at the mine office and shall be made available for inspection, up to two years of reporting.

4. In case of unsatisfactory test result(s), during the above functional ability test, all SCSRs of the batch whose sample had failed shall be immediately withdrawn from the use under intimation by the Owner, Agent or Manager to the Regional as well as Chief Inspector of Mines. Immediate steps shall also be taken to meet the shortage of SCSRs, if any, created due to such withdrawal.

C. TRAINING

1. Every worker required to work in belowground workings shall undergo an initial training on SCSR covering following subjects:

- i. Role of SCSR as an escape apparatus in emergency;
- ii. Theory of working of a SCSR;
- iii. Construction details of a SCSR;
- iv. Way to use SCSR;
- v. Limitations while using SCSR like its duration, inhalation and body temperature during use and
- vi. Hands on training on donning of SCSR in poor visibility.

2. A team of trainers shall be created from V.T.O., Safety Officer, Ventilation Officer, Asst. Manager, Engineer, Workman Inspector and Rescue Trained persons to impart weekly pit-top / Incline-mouth training / re-training of workers.
3. Video clippings, audio & posters on use of SCSR and sufficient number of dummies, subject to a minimum of 5% of the average daily underground attendance, shall be provided to every mine with below ground workings.
4. The training module for initial and refresher training of miners, at VTC, shall be suitably modified to incorporate training on need, importance and use of SCSR.
5. Apart from training to users the trainers and persons required to issue and maintain SCSRs shall also be trained for their respective work.
6. A competition on SCSR during Safety Week and Rescue Competitions shall be organised to promote awareness of workers in this regard.

Sd/-
(M.M.Sharma)
Chief Inspector of Mines.

S 66021/5/2006-DMRS
Govt. of India
Ministry of Labour & Employment
Director-General of Mines Safety

DGMS (Tech.) Circular No. 2A of 2007, Dhanbad, Dated the 30th June'07.

To,
The Owners, Agents and Managers of all Coal Mines,
Manufacturers /Suppliers of Approved type of
Self Contained Self Rescuers,
All Inspecting Officials of the Directorate.

Sub: Protocol on provision and use of Self Contained Self Rescuer (SCSR) under Regulation 191D (2) & (3) of the coal Mines Regulations, 1957 – Addendum there of.

In view of the expected difficulties in carrying and keeping the SCSR of one hour duration on a person's body and to clarify other confusions it is proposed to amend clause A 1.0 of the "Protocol" as following :

A. USE, CARE & MAINTENANCE:

- 1.0 The Owner , Agent and Manager of a mine, with travel time of more than 30 minutes in below ground workings, shall **ensure** that adequate number (not less than the maximum attendance of the largest shift) of Self Contained Self Rescuer (SCSR) with the **rated duration** of one hour shall be placed at suitably designed "Safe Haven" or Refuse Chambers" located at convenient point(s). Where as every person required to work, supervise or visit below ground workings are provided with and carries with them a SCSR of 30 minutes duration on their belt where ever they go or work.
- 1.1 The mine management may construct "Safe Haven" or "Refuse Chambers" at convenient location(s) in below ground with prior approval of the Director General of Mines Safety. A copy of application, for such approval, with complete details shall also be forwarded to the concerned Director of Mines Safety and the Dy. Director General of Mines Safety.

All other provisions of the "Protocol" issued vide DGMS (Tech.) Circular No.2 of 2007/999-1600. dated the 23rd March'07, shall be followed as it is.

sd/-
(M.M. Sharma)
Director General of Mine Safety.

