

**§ 57.20014 Prohibited areas for food and beverages.**

No person shall be allowed to consume or store food or beverages in a toilet room or in any area exposed to a toxic material.

**§ 57.20020 Unattended mine openings.**

Access to unattended mine openings shall be restricted by gates or doors, or the openings shall be fenced and posted.

**§ 57.20021 Abandoned mine openings.**

Upon abandonment of a mine, the owner or operator shall effectively close or fence off all surface openings down which persons could fall or through which persons could enter. Upon or near all such safeguards, trespass warnings and appropriate danger notices shall be posted.

**§ 57.20031 Blasting underground in hazardous areas.**

In underground areas where dangerous accumulations of water, gas, mud, or fire atmosphere could be encountered, persons shall be removed to safe places before blasting.

**§ 57.20032 Two-way communication equipment for underground operations.**

Telephones or other two-way communication equipment with instructions for their use shall be provided for communication from underground operations to the surface.

**Subpart T—Safety Standards for Methane in Metal and Nonmetal Mines**

AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 811.

SOURCE: 52 FR 24941, July 1, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL

**§ 57.22001 Scope.**

This subpart T sets forth procedures and safety standards for each metal and nonmetal underground mine subject to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977. All metal and nonmetal mines will be placed into one of the categories or subcategories de-

fined in this subpart. Mines shall operate in accordance with the applicable standards in this subpart to protect persons against the hazards of methane gas and dust containing volatile matter. The standards in this subpart apply to underground mines as well as surface mills at Subcategory I-C mines. These mines are also required to be operated in accordance with the other applicable health and safety standards published in 30 CFR part 57.

**§ 57.22002 Definitions.**

The following definitions apply in this subpart:

*Competent person.* A person designated by the mine operator who has sufficient experience and training to perform the assigned task.

*Explosive material.* Explosives, blasting agents, and detonators. Explosives are substances classified as explosives by the Department of Transportation in §§ 173.53, 173.88, and 173.100 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (1986 Edition). Blasting agents are substances classified as blasting agents by the Department of Transportation in § 173.114(a) of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (1986 Edition). Detonators are devices containing a detonating charge used to initiate explosives. Examples of detonators are blasting caps, electric or non-electric instantaneous or delay blasting caps and delay connectors. [A copy of Title 49 is available at any Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health District Office of the Mine Safety and Health Administration].

*Substantial construction.* Construction of such strength, material, and workmanship that the object will withstand air blasts, blasting shock, ground movement, pressure differentials, wear, and usage which may be expected to occur in the mining environment.

[52 FR 24941, July 1, 1987, as amended at 69 FR 38842, June 29, 2004]

MINE CATEGORIZATION

**§ 57.22003 Mine category or subcategory.**

(a) All underground mines, and the surface mills of Subcategory I-C mines (gilsonite), shall be placed into one of