

INTERPRETATION OF THE FIELD SCORE CARD

General rules:

Q. Rule 3: The mine rescue rules allow the use of the small permissible cap light, does this apply to the preshift?

Permissible battery cap-lights normally used underground are acceptable.

Q. Rule 14: There still seems to be some confusion about the use of calculators. Can they be used?

Small hand-held calculators can be used.

Interpretations of field scorecard:

Q. Rule 1: Does preshifter have to have a check in tag or can they just write it on a card?

For parity reasons, a check-in tag should be used.

Q. Rule 7, Field Scorecard - In a preshift contest, if a contestant is required to find the mean entry velocity, what is the method or formula used?

The determination of "Mean Entry Velocity" is a calculated value. Whatever formula used by the contestant must provide the same value known to the judges. A common method of computing the "Mean Entry Velocity" is to divide the calculated quantity behind the line curtain, or in the ventilation tubing, or whatever exhausting face ventilation device is used, by the cross-sectional area of the working place - minus the area used in calculating the quantity. In other words, the quantity behind the curtain divided by the area outside the curtain.

Q. Rule 9: The rule is not clear where sound and vibration tests are required. Are sound and vibration test required at all faces? At the last roll of bolts? Where someone else is to install supports? What does the statement; a sound and vibration test is to be made when visual examination does not disclose a hazardous condition mean for contest purposes?

Sound and vibration tests are not required at faces, last row of bolts nor would the preshift contestant be required to conduct a sound and vibration test for anyone other than themselves. Also, in answer to the last part of the question, if for some reason the contestant was required to install

temporary roof supports and a visual examination disclosed a hazardous condition a sound and vibration test would not be required at this location.

Q. Rule 11: Is water in its self a hazard or just a violation? For example 2 feet of water with no hazards noted in water? If a face had 2 feet of water in it would the examiner be required to travel to the face? If the examiner did travel through the water have they endangered themselves? If a pump is available does the examiner have to pump the water?

Part 1 of Question No. 4 – Accumulations of water could be both.

Part 2 of Question No. 4 - If two (2) feet of water was encountered and the coal height was sufficient to permit the examiner to travel through this water with no other hazard was present in the water; it would not be considered a hazard but a condition.

Part 3 of Question No. 4 - If the coal height permits the examiner would be required to travel to the face.

Part 4 of Question No. 4 - Rule 15 does not address traveling into water as an act which would be considered endangering the contestant.

Part 5 of Question No. 5 - Preshift contestants should not be required to install pumps.

If problem designers want to have water as a hazard, some other condition needs to exist in the water to justify water accumulations as being considered a hazardous condition.

Q. In interperetation of field scorecard rule #11 : Failure to take corrective action when finding a hazardous condition. What is means or material? Is the preshift examiner considered a means or materials for correction? What would be proper procedure to remove blasting caps from area if no means other than the preshift examiner was available?

An example of means could be anything as simple as installing curtains or removing draw rock. Material could be curtains etc. The pre-shifter could be considered as a means. Blasting caps should be carried in a non-conductive, closed container as per 30 CFR 75.1311(d).

Rule 14

- Q. Rule 14 – A states: Changing conditions of the section ventilation in such a manner that an explosive mixture is moved over an ignition source.**

What is considered an ignition source for the purposes of this rule?

Placards used to describe or indicate conditions, such as the condition of equipment, should clearly describe whether or not an ignition source is present. Example: Battery Scoop - Not in Permissible Condition

- Q. Rule 14: In using the interpretation given for ignition sources for battery scoops, could one assume that methane could also be passed over an energized cable or other permissible equipment if they are not damaged?
Ventilating excessive quantities of methane or energize permissible equipment would require the equipment to be deenergized as per 75.323.**

General questions:

- 1. Can a preshift examiner move equipment?**

Mobile equipment will not be allowed to be moved by the contestant.

- 2. When entering methane readings in the record book which reading should be enter in the Ch4 column if a gas is cleared? Do you enter what you initial found, how you leave it, or both?**

Both...

Rule 15

- Q. Rule 15 – A, states: Entering or remaining in an area known to contain an irrespirable atmosphere. Atmospheres containing less than 19.5 percent oxygen are irrespirable.**

Will a pre-shift examiner be in violation of this rule by hanging a line curtain in a working place containing less than 19.5 percent for the purpose of clearing the low oxygen?

When an examiner finds such a condition, the action of “bringing fresh-air” with him/her as the curtain is being installed (provided the curtain is hung from the source of fresh-air toward the contaminant), would keep the examiner in fresh-air.