



Mines and Quarries Act 1954

1954 CHAPTER 70 2 and 3 Eliz.2

PART III

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE (MINES)

Provisions for securing safe Ingress and Egress

[^{F1}22] Provision of shafts and outlets in coal, &c., mines.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, it shall not be lawful for any persons to be employed below ground in a mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay unless there are available, for affording to them alternative, and ready, means of ingress and egress, two shafts or outlets (whether belonging exclusively to that mine or not) which, except where they were sunk before the first day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, are at no point separated from each other by less than [^{F2}15 metres] or (where the sinking thereof began before the first day of January, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight) ten feet.
- (2) Where the employment of persons in an area consisting of the whole or any part of a mine below ground would, apart from the following provisions of this subsection be, by virtue of the foregoing subsection, unlawful in consequence of a shaft or outlet having, as a result of an accident or breakdown, become unavailable for affording to persons employed in that area ready means of ingress and egress, but the manager of the mine is satisfied with respect to that area or any part thereof that persons employed in that area or, as the case may be, that part thereof will not for the time being be exposed to undue risk by reason of that shaft or outlet being unavailable as aforesaid, then if he—
 - (a) posts in a conspicuous position at the mine a notice specifying the accident or breakdown and the said area and stating that he is satisfied as aforesaid with respect to that area or, as the case may be, that part thereof and the reason why he is so satisfied; and
 - (b) sends, by the quickest means available, to the inspector for the district and the person, if any, for the time being nominated under the provisions of [^{F3}the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

1985]relating to the notification of accidents to receive on behalf of the persons employed at the mine notices under the said provisions, a message to the like effect as the notice mentioned in the foregoing paragraph;

there shall be excepted from the operation of the foregoing subsection—

- (i) the employment in that area or, as the case may be, that part thereof, until the end of his period of work, of any person who was below ground in the mine at the time of the accident or breakdown;
- (ii) the employment in that area or, as the case may be, that part thereof, until the expiration of the period of twenty-four hours beginning with the time at which the accident or breakdown occurred, of any person in work necessary for securing the safety of the mine or the welfare of animals employed therein or rendering that shaft or outlet again available for the purpose for which it was available immediately before the accident or breakdown:

Provided that nothing in paragraph (i) or (ii) of this subsection shall authorise the employment of any person at any time after the receipt by the manager of the mine of notification from an inspector that, in his opinion, that person should be withdrawn from the area or part of the area in question.

(3) . . . ^{F4} an inspector, upon an application in that behalf made to him with respect to a mine, may, by notice served on the manager of the mine, exempt from the operation of subsection (1) of this section the employment of persons below ground in the mine or in such part of the mine below ground as may be specified in the notice:

Provided that no exemption shall be granted under this subsection by . . . ^{F4} an inspector unless . . . ^{F4} the inspector, . . . ^{F4}, is satisfied that no persons employed in the mine will be exposed to undue risk in consequence of the granting of the exemption.

(4) ^{F5}

(5) In any claim against the owner or manager of a mine for damages, being a claim arising out of an accident caused by a decision of the manager made for the purposes of subsection (2) of this section, the defendant shall, unless he proves that the manager was not negligent in making that decision, be liable in all respects as if the plaintiff had proved that the manager was negligent in making that decision.

(6) For the purposes of this section a shaft or unwalkable outlet at a mine provided with apparatus for carrying persons through the shaft or outlet shall be deemed not to be available to a person employed below ground in the mine for affording to him means of ingress and egress if that apparatus is not available for use by him.

(7) In the application of this section to Scotland, for references to a plaintiff and a defendant there shall respectively be substituted references to a pursuer and a defender.

(8) Nothing in this section shall apply to the employment of persons in a shaft or outlet or in the insets of a shaft or outlet.]

Textual Amendments	
F1	Ss. 22–25, 33–35 repealed (1.4.1989, in part, and 1.4.1994, fully) by S.I. 1988/1729, regs. 1(1), 12(1)(a)
F2	Words substituted by S.I. 1976/2063, reg. 3(1), Sch. 1 Pt. II except as to shafts sunk, or as the case may be, lengths of road made before 1.2.1977
F3	Words substituted by virtue of S.I. 1985/2023, reg. 13(1), Sch. 7 Pt. III para. 1(a)
F4	Words omitted by virtue of S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 2 para. 4

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

F5 Ss. 4(4), 12(2), 21, 22(4), 26 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**

[^{F6}23 Communications between shafts and outlets in coal, &c., mines.

- (1) So long as, in a mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay, more than one shaft or outlet is available to any persons employed below ground in the mine for affording to them means of ingress and egress, there shall be provided and maintained between—
- (a) each entrance to each shaft or outlet that is available to those persons for that purpose, being an entrance whereby those persons gain access to the shaft or outlet from the workings; and
 - (b) some point or points on another shaft or outlet so available;
a communication following a reasonably short and reasonably convenient route.
- (2) The height of every communication provided in pursuance of the foregoing subsection shall be maintained throughout at not less than [^{F7}1.5 metres] and the width of every such communication shall be maintained throughout at not less than [^{F7}1.2 metres]:
Provided that—
- (a) . . . ^{F8}
 - (b) if an inspector is satisfied that, owing to special circumstances affecting a particular mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay, it is inadvisable for reasons of safety or unnecessary, in the case of all or any of the communications provided as aforesaid therein, for the minimum height or width, or height and width, thereof to be as great as provided by the foregoing provisions of this subsection, he may, by notice served on the manager of the mine, direct that those provisions shall have effect in their application to those communications or to such of them as may be specified in the notice, with the substitution, for the minimum specified in the said provisions in relation to height, that so specified in relation to width or both of those minima, as the case may be, of such less minimum or minima as may be specified in the notice.]

Textual Amendments

- F6** Ss. 22–25, 33–35 repealed (1.4.1989, in part, and 1.4.1994, fully) by S.I. 1988/1729, **regs. 1(1), 12(1)**
(a)
- F7** Words substituted by S.I. 1976/2063, **Sch. Pt. I**
- F8** S. 23(2)(a) repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**

[^{F9}24 Limitation on number of persons to be employed at coal, &c., mines in places with single exits.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, it shall not be lawful for more than nine persons to be employed at any time below ground in a mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay in a place from which there are not two ways each of which—
- (a) leads to a different shaft or outlet, being a shaft or outlet provided for affording to persons employed at that place means of ingress and egress;
 - (b) is entirely separate from the other;
 - (c) is traversable with safety and reasonable convenience;

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

- (d) at each junction thereof with another way has clearly marked on it the shaft or outlet to which it leads; and
- (e) if it is so prescribed, is of a height or width, or height and width, not less than such as may be prescribed;
- or for more than nine persons in the aggregate to be so employed in two or more such places from none of which can egress to the surface be had otherwise than by traversing a common junction.
- (2) As respects a particular mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay, provision may be made by regulations or by a notice served by . . . ^{F10} an inspector on the manager of the mine—
- (a) for exempting the mine or any specified place therein from all or any of the requirements of the foregoing subsection;
- (b) for directing that the foregoing subsection shall, in its application to the mine or to any specified place therein, have effect with the substitution, for references to nine persons, of references to such greater number of persons (not exceeding thirty) as may be specified in the regulations or notice:
- Provided that no such provision as aforesaid shall be made with respect to a mine by . . . ^{F10} an inspector unless . . . ^{F10} the inspector, . . . ^{F10}, is satisfied that no persons employed in the mine will be exposed to undue risk or inconvenience in consequence of the making of such provision.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall apply to the employment of persons in a shaft or outlet.]

Textual Amendments

F9 Ss. 22–25, 33–35 repealed (1.4.1989, in part, and 1.4.1994, fully) by S.I. 1988/1729, **regs. 1(1), 12(1)**
 (a)

F10 Words omitted by virtue of S.I. 1974/2013, **Sch. 2 para. 4**

[^{F11}25] **Limitation on number of persons to be employed at coal, &c., mines in shafts and outlets and their insets.**

- (1) It shall not be lawful for a number of persons greater than the permitted number to be employed at any time at a mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay in a shaft or outlet:
- Provided that, in relation to an outlet (not being an unwalkable outlet), this subsection shall not apply to any part thereof lying between the surface entrance thereto and any point therein from which a communication leads to another outlet or to a shaft, being an outlet or shaft available to persons employed in the said part for affording to them means of ingress and egress.
- (2) For the purposes of this section—
- (a) the permitted number, in relation to a shaft or outlet, shall be twenty or such greater number (not exceeding thirty) as may be determined by an inspector by notice served on the manager of the mine;
- (b) the insets of a shaft or outlet shall be deemed to form part of the shaft or outlet; and
- (c) subsection (6) of section twenty-two of this Act shall apply as it applies for the purposes of that section.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as prejudicing the operation of the last foregoing section in relation to the employment of persons in individual insets of a shaft or outlet.]

Textual Amendments

F11 Ss. 22–25, 33–35 repealed (1.4.1989, in part, and 1.4.1994, fully) by S.I. 1988/1729, **regs. 1(1), 12(1) (a)**

26 **F12**

Textual Amendments

F12 Ss. 4(4), 12(2), 21, 22(4), 26 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**

27 **F13**

Textual Amendments

F13 S. 27 repealed by S.I. 1975/1102, **Sch. 1**

28 Provision of winding and haulage apparatus.

- (1) Every ^{F14} . . . unwalkable outlet for the time being provided at a mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay for affording to persons employed below ground therein means of ingress and egress shall be provided with apparatus for carrying persons between ^{F14} . . . the surface entrance to the outlet and the entrances therefrom to the workings and between those entrances themselves, being apparatus which complies with such requirements (if any) of regulations as it appears to the Minister requisite or expedient to impose for securing the safety of persons when being carried by means thereof and whose use is confined to the ^{F14} . . . outlet, save where an inspector in any particular case, by notice served on the manager of the mine, consents to its use not being so confined.
- (2) Every ^{F14} . . . unwalkable outlet for the time being provided at a mine other than of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay for affording to persons employed below ground therein means of ingress and egress, being a ^{F14} . . . outlet in the case of which the relevant distance exceeds [^{F15}45 metres] shall be provided with apparatus ^{F14} . . . , for carrying persons between the surface entrance to the outlet and the entrances therefrom to the workings and between those entrances themselves being apparatus which complies with such requirements (if any) of regulations as it appears to the Minister requisite or expedient to impose for securing the safety of persons when being carried by means thereof, and whose use is confined to the ^{F14} . . . outlet, save where an inspector in any particular case, by notice served on the manager of the mine, consents to its use not being so confined:

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Provided that an inspector may by notice served on the manager of any such mine as is mentioned in the foregoing provisions of this subsection exempt from those provisions a shaft or outlet provided at that mine.

For the purposes of this subsection the expression “relevant distance” means, ^{F14} . . . in the case of an outlet, the distance between the point at which the outlet reaches the surface and the underground entrance provided for affording to persons access to the outlet which is furthest from that point.

- (3) All apparatus provided in pursuance of this section shall be properly maintained and, when not in use, kept constantly available for use.

Textual Amendments

- F14** Words in s. 28(1)(2) repealed (1.4.1993 except in so far as the amending regulations apply to mines of tin or tin ore and 1.1.1996 in so far as they do apply to mines of tin or tin ore), by S.I. 1993/302, regs. 1, 22(1), Sch. 1.
- F15** Words substituted by S.I. 1976/2063, reg. 3(1), Sch. 1 Pt. II except as to shafts sunk, or as the case may be, lengths of road made before 1.2.1977

29 ^{F16}

Textual Amendments

- F16** Ss. 29, 31(3), 32 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1Pt. I

Safety Precautions in connection with Shafts, &c., and Entrances to disused Workings

30 Securing of shafts and staple-pits.

- (1) Every mine shaft and staple-pit shall, save in so far as the natural conditions of the strata through which it passes render it unnecessary (either as to the whole or as to any part thereof) so to make it, be made secure, and shall be kept secure:
Provided that in any prosecution for a contravention of this subsection with respect to a shaft or staple-pit, it shall be a defence to prove that at the time of the alleged contravention no insecure part of that shaft or staple-pit was in use or was the site of any operations in progress by way of driving or extending the shaft or staple-pit.
- (2) Subsection (1) of this section shall apply to unwalkable outlets at a mine as it applies to mine shafts.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** By S.I. 1993/302, regs. 1, 22(2), it is provided (1.4.1993 except in so far as those regulations apply to mines of tin or tin ore and 1.1.1996 in so far as they do apply to mines of tin or tin ore) that s. 30(1) shall cease to have effect in relation to shafts (as defined in reg. 2(1) of those regulations).

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

31 Safety precautions with respect to entrances to shafts, staple-pits and outlets.

- ^{F17}(1)
- ^{F17}(2)
- (3) ^{F18}
- ^{F17}(4)
- ^{F17}(5)

Textual Amendments

- F17** Ss. 31(1)(2)(4)(5) repealed (1.4.1993 except in so far as the amending regulations apply to mines of tin or tin ore and 1.1.1996 in so far as they do apply to mines of tin or tin ore), by 1993/302, regs. 1, 22(1), Sch. 1.
- F18** Ss. 29, 31(3), 32 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1Pt. I

32 ^{F19}

Textual Amendments

- F19** Ss. 29, 31(3), 32 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1Pt. I

[^{F20}33 Safety precautions with respect to entrances to unfit parts of mines.

- (1) Every entrance from a road in a mine to a part of the mine which for the time being is not maintained in a state fit for persons to work in or pass through shall be provided with an efficient enclosure or barrier so designed and constructed as to prevent any person from accidentally entering that part of the mine.
- (2) Every enclosure or barrier provided in a mine in pursuance of the foregoing subsection shall be properly maintained and, where an enclosure or barrier so provided or any part thereof is removable or openable, the enclosure, barrier or part shall be kept securely in position or, as the case may be, securely closed save in so far as its removal or opening is authorised by the manager of the mine, an under-manager thereof or the person for the time being in charge of the part of the mine in which it is provided.]

Textual Amendments

- F20** Ss. 22–25, 33–35 repealed (1.4.1989, in part, and 1.4.1994, fully) by S.I. 1988/1729, regs. 1(1), 12(1)(a)

[^{F21} Roads

Textual Amendments

- F21** Ss. 22–25, 33–35 repealed (1.4.1989, in part, and 1.4.1994, fully) by S.I. 1988/1729, regs. 1(1), 12(1)(a)

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

34 General provisions with respect to construction and maintenance of roads.

(1) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to take, with respect to every length of road therein, being a length in which vehicles or conveyors run or which is used at the beginning or end of a shift by not less than ten persons for the purpose of walking to or from their working places in the mine, such steps as may be necessary to secure that the following provisions are complied with, namely,—

(a) every such length of road made after the commencement of this Act shall be so made and maintained as to avoid sudden changes of direction, height, width and gradient save in so far as either—

(i) the system of working the mine or the natural conditions of the strata therein render it inadvisable for reasons of safety to do so; or

(ii) it is unnecessary to do so;

(b) every such length of road (whether made before or after the commencement of this Act) shall be kept free from obstructions and the floor thereof shall be kept in good repair and in such a condition that any persons or animals who use that length of road can tread it with safety and reasonable convenience.

(2) F22

(3) References in this section to changes of gradient shall be construed as including references to deviations (whether upwards or downwards) from the horizontal.]

Textual Amendments

F22 Ss. 34(2), 35(2)—(4) repealed by S.I. 1975/1102, **Sch. 1**

[^{F23}35 Height and width of travelling roads.

(1) Every length of road in a mine which is used at the beginning or end of a shift by not less than ten persons for the purpose of walking to or from their working places in the mine, being a length made after the commencement of this Act, shall be not less than [^{F24}1.7 metres] high throughout:

Provided that—

(a) F25

(b) an inspector may, by notice served on the manager of a particular mine, exempt from those provisions any such length of road as aforesaid in that mine or any part of any such length of road.

(2) F26]

Textual Amendments

F23 Ss. 22–25, 33–35 repealed (1.4.1989, in part, and 1.4.1994, fully) by S.I. 1988/1729, **regs. 1(1), 12(1)** (a)

F24 Words substituted by S.I. 1976/2063, **reg. 3(1), Sch. 1 Pt. II** except as to shafts sunk, or as the case may be, lengths of road made before 1.2.1977

F25 S. 35(1)(a) repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**

F26 Ss. 34(2), 35(2)—(4) repealed by S.I. 1975/1102, **Sch. 1**

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

36 Prohibition of use of vehicles and conveyors in roads not affording free movement.

- (1) The manager of a mine—
 - (a) shall not permit vehicles to run in any road therein unless neither the vehicles nor their loads, nor (if the vehicles run as part of rope haulage apparatus) the ropes to which they are attached, nor (if the vehicles are hauled by animals) the animals nor their harnesses rub against the roof or sides of the road, anything supporting the roof and sides of the road or either of them or anything in the road not provided for the purpose of controlling the vehicles or (in the case of vehicles which run as part of rope haulage apparatus) the ropes to which they are attached;
 - (b) shall not permit a conveyor to be operated in any road therein unless neither the conveyor nor its load rubs against the roof or sides of the road, anything supporting the roof and sides of the road or either of them or anything in the road.
- (2) In any prosecution for a contravention of this section with respect to the running of vehicles or the operation of a conveyor in a road in a mine on any occasion, it shall be a defence to prove either—
 - (a) that the sole purpose for which the vehicles were being run or the conveyor was being operated on that occasion was to facilitate the carrying out to the road of repairs the purpose of the carrying out whereof was to enable the manager of the mine, without contravention of this section, to permit vehicles to run or a conveyor to be operated in that road; or
 - (b) that—
 - (i) the fact that rubbing occurred on that occasion was due to a sudden decrease of the height or width of the road which it was impracticable to prevent; and
 - (ii) there was no reasonable ground for apprehending that the running of the vehicles or the operation of the conveyor, as the case may be, on that occasion would result in bodily injury to persons or animals using the road; and
 - (iii) no avoidable delay was incurred in taking the steps necessary to complete the carrying out to the road, at the place where rubbing occurred, of such repairs as aforesaid.

37 Transport rules.

- (1) The manager of every mine shall have power to make rules (hereafter in this Act referred to as “transport rules”) with respect to the use of vehicles and conveyors in the mine and the conditions under which they may be so used and generally for securing the safe operation in the mine of vehicles and conveyors and the avoidance of bodily injury being caused to persons by reason of the running thereof, and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing words,—
 - (a) specifying a standard height and width with respect to each length of road in the mine in which vehicles run or conveyors are operated;
 - (b) specifying the maximum loads (by reference to weight, dimensions, number or other criterion) that may be carried in vehicles in any length of road in the mine and the maximum number of vehicles (according as to whether they are loaded or unloaded) that may be coupled together to run as a set or train in any length of road in the mine;

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

- (c) specifying the maximum speeds at which vehicles may run in any length of road in the mine; and
 - (d) prohibiting the conveyance in roads in the mine of persons in vehicles or on conveyors except in such circumstances and in accordance with such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the rules and specifying precautions to be observed when persons are so conveyed.
- (2) The exercise by the manager of a mine of the power conferred by the foregoing subsection shall be obligatory for the purpose mentioned in paragraph (a) of that subsection and also for the purposes mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (d) thereof save in so far as an exercise of that power for those purposes could, having regard to the circumstances of the mine, serve no object, and regulations may render an exercise of that power obligatory for any other purpose for which it may be exercised.
- (3) The power conferred by subsection (1) of this section to specify by transport rules standard heights and widths with respect to lengths of road may, as respects any particular length of road, be so exercised as either to specify a standard height and width to be applicable without exception throughout that length of road or to specify a standard height and width to be applicable throughout that length of road but subject to exceptions (as regards height or width, or both) for such places therein as may be specified in the rules.
- (4) Transport rules having effect with respect to a mine may impose duties and prohibitions on persons employed thereat and may make different provision with respect to different roads or classes of roads, different lengths of road or lengths of road of different classes and different classes of vehicles, conveyors and loads.
- (5) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine—
- (a) so to frame such of the provisions of transport rules as have effect by virtue of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section as to secure that, as regards any length of road in the mine to which the provisions relate, the specified standard width is not less than such as is sufficient to permit of the provision of such amount of space as may be calculated to secure the safety of persons who work in or pass through that length of road while vehicles are running or conveyors are being operated therein; and
 - (b) so to frame such of the provisions of transport rules as have effect by virtue of paragraph (b) or (c) of that subsection as to secure that each maximum thereby specified is such as will, in his opinion, afford a reasonable margin of safety.
- (6) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine—
- (a) to take, with respect to every length of road therein with respect to which a standard height and width is specified by provisions of transport rules having effect by virtue of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section, such steps as are appropriate for securing that the height and width of that length of road throughout are at all times not less than the standard height and width so specified, save, so far as regards any such place therein as is specified in the rules by virtue of subsection (3) of this section, in so far as that height and width are, or either of them is, by virtue of that subsection, inapplicable;
 - (b) to secure that all other provisions of transport rules relating to the mine are executed and enforced.
- (7) A transport rule which is inconsistent with the provisions of any regulation shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be of no effect.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

- (8) If an inspector is of opinion with respect to a mine that provision ought to be made by transport rules having effect with respect to the mine for any matter for which provision is not for the time being made by such rules or that different provision ought to be made by such rules for any matter for which provision is for the time being made by such rules, he may serve on the manager of the mine a notice stating that he is of that opinion, specifying the matter for which, in his opinion, provision or, as the case may be, different provision ought to be made as aforesaid and the nature of the provision that, in his opinion, ought to be made, and requiring the manager, before the expiration of such period beginning with the day on which the notice becomes operative as may be specified therein, to exercise the power conferred on him by subsection (1) of this section in accordance with the tenor of the notice.

The provisions of Part XV of this Act with respect to references upon notices served by inspectors shall apply to a notice served under this subsection.

- (9) A copy of all transport rules for the time being in force with respect to a mine shall be kept at the office at the mine or at such other place as may be approved by an inspector, and notices containing a summary of so much of any such rules as affect any person shall be kept posted at suitable places in the mine in such characters and in such positions as to be easily seen and read by him.
- (10) A document purporting to be certified by the manager of a mine to be a true copy of any transport rules for the time being in force with respect to the mine shall be receivable in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be such a copy.

38 F27

Textual Amendments

F27 Ss. 38, 45(2), 47 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

39 Provisions for securing safety of foot-passengers in transport roads.

- (1) The following provisions shall have effect with respect to every length of road in a mine, being a length in which run vehicles moved otherwise than by hand or by animal traction (whether or not vehicles moved by those means also run therein):—
- (a) during any period during which vehicles are moving in that length of road otherwise than by those means, no person employed at the mine (other than an authorised person) shall, except in accordance with the provisions of regulations in that behalf, pass on foot along that length of road or any part thereof unless the movement of vehicles in that length of road, other than vehicles moved by those means, is specially stopped for the purpose of allowing him to do so;
 - (b) if that length of road is used at the beginning or end, or at the beginning and end, of a shift by not less than ten persons for the purpose of walking to or from their working places in the mine, it shall be the duty of the manager of the mine to fix a period or periods for the purpose of enabling them to do so in safety, and no person shall cause or permit a vehicle (whether loaded or not) to move, otherwise than by those means, in that length of road during a period fixed in pursuance of the foregoing provisions of this paragraph:

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

Provided that—

- (i)^{F28} an inspector may, by notice served on the manager of a particular mine, exempt from the provisions of either or both of those paragraphs any such length of road as aforesaid in that mine; and
 - (ii) in any prosecution instituted in respect of a person’s passing along a length of road or part thereof in contravention of paragraph (a) of this subsection, it shall be a defence to prove that that person had reasonable cause to believe that it might be necessary for repairs to be carried out forthwith in that length of road and was so passing for the purpose of verifying his belief and of ascertaining the nature or extent of the repairs which he believed it might be necessary to carry out.
- (2) Except with the written permission of the manager of a mine, no person shall, otherwise than in such circumstances and in accordance with such conditions (if any) as may be specified in transport rules having effect with respect to the mine, accompany on foot below ground in the mine a vehicle which is moving as part of any rope haulage apparatus.
 - (3) For the purposes of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section the expression “authorised person” means, in relation to a length of road in a mine,—
 - (a) an official of the mine;
 - (b) a person employed in connection with the running of vehicles in that length of road;
 - (c) a person engaged in, or in connection with, the carrying out in that length of road of repairs which it is necessary to carry out forthwith; or
 - (d) a person engaged in carrying out, by virtue of the provisions of this Act relating to workmen’s inspections or of any such agreement as is mentioned in those provisions, an inspection at the mine.

Textual Amendments

F28 Words repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

40 Provision of refuge holes.

- (1) Subject to any exceptions for which provision may be made by regulations, the manager of a mine shall not permit vehicles (not being vehicles moved by hand) to run in any length of road in the mine unless there are provided in that length of road (except in so much, if any, of it as is within [^{F29}23 metres] of a working face served by it), at intervals not greater than such as may be prescribed and in the prescribed positions, refuge holes each of which is of such dimensions as may be prescribed and complies with such other requirements as may be prescribed.
- (2) Every refuge hole for the time being provided in a length of road in a mine for the purpose of enabling the manager of the mine, without contravention of the foregoing subsection, to permit vehicles to run in that length of road shall be kept free from obstruction.
- (3) In this section the expression “working face” does not include a place in a road at which ripping or work of repair is in progress.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F29 Words substituted by [S.I. 1976/2063](#), [Sch. Pt. I](#)

41 Safety measures relating to use of vehicles.

- (1) So long as vehicles are used in a mine, there shall be provided, maintained and used, either in the mine or on the vehicles or both in the mine and on the vehicles, such safety devices as are necessary to prevent the occurrence of accidents likely to cause bodily injury to persons, being accidents caused by vehicles so used running away; and every device provided in pursuance of this subsection shall be of a kind designed to assume automatically the position in which it operates for the purpose for which it is designed, save in a case where there is good reason for not providing a device of that kind.
- (2) In addition to the provision, in pursuance of the foregoing subsection, of such safety devices as are therein mentioned, there shall be taken, as respects a person who, otherwise than as a matter of routine, is at work at a place in a mine through which vehicles are running or are accustomed to run, such steps as are necessary to protect him from bodily injury in the event of a vehicle's running away while he is at work at that place.

*Provisions for securing safe operation of Winding
and Rope Haulage Apparatus and Conveyors*

42 Charge of winding and rope haulage apparatus when persons are carried.

- (1) No mechanically or gravity operated winding apparatus with which a mine shaft or staple-pit is provided and no mechanically or gravity operated rope haulage apparatus at a mine shall be operated on any occasion when persons are carried by means thereof except by a competent . . . ^{F30} person who has attained the age of twenty-two years appointed by the manager of the mine to operate it on such an occasion; and accordingly it shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to appoint such number (if any) of competent . . . ^{F30} persons as may be sufficient to secure compliance with the foregoing provisions of this subsection.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to and from which persons gain ingress and egress by being carried through a shaft or unwalkable outlet by means of mechanically or gravity operated winding or rope haulage apparatus, or in which persons gain access to a part thereof by being carried through a staple-pit by means of mechanically or gravity operated winding apparatus, to make, and to secure the efficient carrying out of, arrangements whereby, so long as any person is below ground in the mine who it is intended should come out through that shaft, outlet or staple-pit, a person appointed under this section is in attendance at the mine for the purpose of operating the apparatus aforesaid provided for carrying persons through that shaft or outlet or, as the case may be, that staple-pit.
- (3) An inspector may serve on the manager of a mine a notice requiring him to secure that, at such times as may be specified in the notice, a person who, in pursuance of arrangements made under the last foregoing subsection, is in attendance at the mine is not charged with the duty of operating more than one set of mechanically or gravity operated winding or rope haulage apparatus.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

(4) . . . ^{F31}, no person appointed under this section shall be employed at a mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay for more than eight hours in any day on which his duties consist of, or include, the operation, when persons are carried by means thereof, of mechanically or gravity operated winding apparatus with which a shaft is provided, . . . ^{F31}

Textual Amendments

F30 Word repealed by [Employment Act 1989 \(c. 38, SIF 43:1\)](#), ss. 9(1), 29(4), [Sch. 7 Part II](#)

F31 Words repealed by [S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 By [S.I. 1993/302](#) regs. 1, 22(2), it is provided (1.4.1993 except in so far as those regulations apply to mines of tin or tin ore and 1.1.1996 in so far as they do apply to mines of tin or tin ore) that s. 42 shall cease to have effect in relation to shafts (as defined in reg. 2(1) of those regulations).

43 Charge of winding and rope haulage apparatus when persons are not carried.

^{F32}(1)

(2) No mechanically or gravity operated rope haulage apparatus at a mine shall be operated on any such occasion as aforesaid except by, or under the constant supervision of, a competent . . . ^{F33}person who has attained the age of eighteen years.

Textual Amendments

F32 [S. 43\(1\)](#) repealed (1.4.1993 except in so far as the amending regulations apply to mines of tin or tin ore and 1.1.1996 in so far as they do apply to mines of tin or tin ore), by [1993/302](#), regs. 1, 22(1) [Sch.1](#).

F33 Word repealed by [Employment Act 1989 \(c. 38, SIF 43:1\)](#), ss. 9(1), 29(4), [Sch. 7 Part II](#)

44 Charge of conveyors at working faces.

No conveyor shall be operated along a working face in a mine except by, or under the constant supervision of, a competent . . . ^{F34}person who has attained the age of eighteen years.

Textual Amendments

F34 Word repealed by [Employment Act 1989 \(c. 38, SIF 43:1\)](#), ss. 9(1), 29(4), [Sch. 7 Part II](#)

45 Signalling in shafts and outlets.

(1) There shall be provided and maintained—

^{F35}(a)

(b) in connection with every unwalkable outlet at a mine, being an outlet which is provided with rope haulage apparatus and in the case of which the distance between the terminal surface entrance thereto and the terminal underground entrance thereto exceeds [^{F36}15 metres], effective means of transmitting

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

audible and visible signals from each entrance to the outlet for the time being in use to the place at which the haulage apparatus is operated;

...^{F37}

(2)^{F38}

(3) For the purposes of this section—

^{F35}(a)

(b) the expression “entrance”, in relation to an outlet, includes any place at which vehicles stop for the purpose of loading or unloading; and

(c) the expressions “terminal surface entrance” and “terminal underground entrance”, in relation to an outlet, mean, respectively, the surface entrance thereto or, if there is more than one, that one for the time being in use which is furthest from the point at which the outlet reaches the surface and the underground entrance thereto for the time being in use which is furthest from that point.

Textual Amendments

F35 S. 45(1)(a)(3)(a) repealed (1.4.1993 except in so far as the amending regulations apply to mines of tin or tin ore and 1.1.1996 in so far as they do apply to mines of tin or tin ore) by S.I. 1993/302, regs. 1, 22(1), Sch.1.

F36 Words substituted by S.I. 1976/2063, Sch. Pt. I

F37 Words repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

F38 Ss. 38, 45(2), 47 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

46 Signalling in roads.

Where rope haulage apparatus or a conveyor is installed in a road in a mine or is so installed at a mine as to permit of its operation in a road therein, then, if the length of the part of that road through which vehicles can move as part of that apparatus or, as the case may be, through which loads can be carried by means of that conveyor, exceeds [^{F39}25 metres], there shall be provided and maintained effective means of transmitting signals from every point throughout that part of that road, to the place at which the apparatus or, as the case may be, the conveyor is operated.

Textual Amendments

F39 Words substituted by S.I. 1976/2063, Sch. Pt. I

47^{F40}

Textual Amendments

F40 Ss. 38, 45(2), 47 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

Support

F41 48

Textual Amendments

F41 S. 48 repealed (1.12.1999) by S.I. 1999/2463, reg. 18(1)

F42 49

Textual Amendments

F42 S. 49 repealed (1.12.1999) by S.I. 1999/2463, reg. 18(1)

50 F43

Textual Amendments

F43 Ss. 49(3), 50 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I and by S.I. 1999/2463, reg. 18(1)

F44 51

Textual Amendments

F44 S. 51 repealed (1.12.1999) by S.I. 1999/2463, reg. 18(1)

F45 52

Textual Amendments

F45 S. 52 repealed (1.12.1999) by S.I. 1999/2463, reg. 18(1)

F46 53

Textual Amendments

F46 S. 53 repealed (1.12.1999) by S.I. 1999/2463, reg. 18(1)

F47 54

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F47 S. 54 repealed (1.12.1999) by S.I. 1999/2463, reg. 18(1)

Ventilation

55 Duty to provide adequate ventilation.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to take such steps as are necessary for securing that there is constantly produced in all parts of the mine below ground ventilation adequate for the following purposes, namely,—
 - (a) diluting gases that are inflammable or noxious so as to render them harmless and removing them; and
 - (b) providing air containing a sufficiency of oxygen.
- (2) Without prejudice to the general application of the foregoing subsection,—
 - (a) ventilation produced in a part of a mine shall be deemed for the purposes of that subsection not to be adequate for the purpose of diluting carbon dioxide so as to render it harmless unless the amount thereof in the general body of the air in that part of the mine is not more than one and a quarter per cent. by volume or, if a smaller percentage by volume is prescribed, that smaller percentage;
 - (b) ventilation produced in a part of a mine shall be deemed for the purposes of that subsection not to be adequate for the purpose of providing air containing a sufficiency of oxygen unless the amount of oxygen in the general body of the air in that part of the mine is not less than nineteen per cent. by volume;
- ... F48
- (3) In the discharge of the duty imposed on him by subsection (1) of this section, the manager of a mine shall have regard to the desirability of securing (consistently with the discharge of that duty) the maintenance in the mine of working conditions that are reasonable so far as regards the temperature and humidity of the atmosphere and the amount of dust therein.
- (4) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall be construed as requiring the production of ventilation—
 - (a) in a part of a mine which is stopped off in a prescribed manner or in such other manner as may be approved by an inspector by notice served on the manager of the mine or is stowed up;
 - (b) in any waste; or
 - (c) in any such other part of a mine as may be prescribed.
- (5) Where, in any part of a mine required by the foregoing provisions of this section to be ventilated, the ventilation is interrupted or ceases to be adequate for the purposes mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, it shall be the duty of the manager of the mine to secure that, until the ventilation is restored, access to that part of the mine is so restricted as to prevent from entering it any person not authorised to do so and no person is permitted to remain in or pass through it except for the purpose of restoring the ventilation or in a case of emergency.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F48 Words repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

56 Avoidance of danger from gas in waste.

- (1) This section applies to waste other than—
- (a) waste which is—
 - (i) stopped off in a prescribed manner or in such other manner as may be approved by an inspector by notice served on the manager of the mine in which it is contained; or
 - (ii) stowed up; or
 - (b) waste, other than as aforesaid, with respect to which it is known that there is therein—
 - (i) no inflammable gas; and
 - (ii) either no noxious gas or no noxious gas in a dangerous concentration.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine which contains any waste to which this section applies to secure either—
- (a) that there is constantly produced in that waste ventilation adequate for the purposes mentioned in subsection (1) of the last foregoing section; or
 - (b) that appropriate steps are taken for the purpose of minimising dangerous emissions from that waste of inflammable or noxious gas.
- (3) Subsection (2) of the last foregoing section shall, with any requisite modifications, apply for the purposes of paragraph (a) of the last foregoing subsection as it applies for the purposes of subsection (1) of that section.

57 F49

Textual Amendments

F49 S. 57 repealed by S.I. 1975/1102, Sch. 1

58 Provisions as to means of ventilation.

- (1) Unless, in all parts of a mine that are required by section fifty-five of this Act to be ventilated, ventilation adequate for the purposes specified in subsection (1) of that section is provided wholly by natural means, there shall be provided and maintained on the surface of the mine mechanically operated apparatus capable of producing in all those parts of the mine an amount of ventilation sufficient (apart from any ventilation produced by any mechanically operated apparatus below ground) to enable all the persons who are below ground in the mine at any one time to leave it safely; and any apparatus provided in pursuance of this subsection shall, if it is not normally used to produce ventilation, be used once at least in each week and be kept constantly available for use.
- (2) Where (whether in pursuance of the foregoing subsection or not) there is provided on the surface of a mine of coal mechanically operated apparatus for producing

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

ventilation below ground in the mine, then, unless that apparatus is so designed or adapted, and is so installed, as to permit of its operation both by way of forcing air into, and by way of exhausting air from, the mine, there shall be provided in association with that apparatus, maintained and kept constantly available for use, adequate means for reversing the direction of flow of the ventilation produced by that apparatus.

- (3) Regulations may—
- (a) exempt any prescribed class of mines from the provisions of subsection (1) of this section;
 - (b) exempt any prescribed class of mines of coal from the provisions of subsection (2) of this section;

and an inspector may, by notice served on the manager of a particular mine other than of coal, exempt the mine from the provisions of the said subsection (1) and may, by notice served on the manager of a particular mine of coal, exempt the mine from the provisions of either or both of those subsections:

Provided that no exemption shall be granted by regulations made by virtue of this subsection unless the Minister is satisfied that no persons employed in mines of the class to which the regulations apply will be exposed to undue risk in consequence of the granting of the exemption, and no exemption shall be granted under this subsection by an inspector in the case of a particular mine unless he is satisfied that no persons employed in that mine will be exposed to undue risk in consequence of the granting of the exemption.

- (4) It shall not be lawful to use a fire for ventilation in a mine or, except with the consent of an inspector, given by notice served on the manager of the mine, to release in a mine compressed air for the purpose thereby of diluting or removing inflammable or noxious gas.

59 Prevention of leakage of air between airways.

- (1) Where, of any two lengths of different passages in a mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay, one is made after the commencement of this Act (whatever the date of the making of, or of any part of, the other), then, unless there is (without any steps being taken for the purpose of minimising the leakage of air between them) no, or no appreciable, leakage of air between them, it shall not be lawful to use one as, or as part of, an intake airway and the other as, or as part of, a return airway unless such steps are taken as are necessary for the purpose of minimising the leakage of air between them: Provided that nothing in the foregoing provisions of this subsection shall render unlawful the use as, or as part of, an airway of so much of any passage in a mine as lies within the relevant distance from a working face to which air is supplied or from which air is drawn off through that airway.
- (2) For the purposes of the proviso to the foregoing subsection—
- (a) the expression “relevant distance” means, in relation to a working face in a mine, four hundred and fifty feet (measured from any point on that face in a straight line on any plane) or such other distance, so measured (whether greater or less than [^{F50}150 metres], as may, in any particular case, be determined by an inspector by notice served on the manager of the mine; and
 - (b) the expression “working face” does not include a place in a road at which ripping or work of repair is in progress.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F50 Words substituted by [S.I. 1976/2063](#), [Sch. Pt. I](#)

^{F51} **60**

Textual Amendments

F51 [S. 60](#) repealed (1.10.1993) by 1993/1897, reg. 41(1), Sch. 3 Pt.I.

Lighting, Lamps and Contraband

61 Lighting.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine—
 - (a) to secure the provision of—
 - (i) suitable and sufficient lighting (whether natural or artificial) in every part of the mine above ground in or through which persons work or pass (account being taken, where lamps are normally carried by persons who work in or pass through any such part, of the amount of light emitted by those lamps);
 - (ii) suitable and sufficient artificial lighting in every part of the mine below ground in or through which persons work or pass, other than a part in which the installation of artificial lighting is inadvisable for reasons of safety or is unnecessary because of the amount of light emitted by lamps normally carried by persons who work in or pass through it or for any other reason;
 - (b) to secure that all apparatus installed at the mine for producing artificial lighting thereat is properly maintained.
- (2) Provision may be made by regulations for requiring the provision and maintenance, at such places at a mine as may be prescribed, of such lights as may be prescribed; but nothing in regulations having effect by virtue of this subsection shall be construed as being in derogation of the general obligation imposed by subsection (1) of this section.

62 Permitted lights.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, no lamps or lights other than permitted lights shall be allowed or used below ground in a mine of coal first opened on or after the date of the commencement of this Act.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this section, no lamps or lights other than permitted lights shall be allowed or used below ground in a mine (whether of coal or of any other mineral) first opened before the said date, being either—
 - (a) a mine in the case of which, immediately before that date, the use below ground therein of lamps or lights, other than locked safety-lamps or some other means of lighting the use of which below ground therein was authorised by or under the enactments repealed by this Act, was unlawful or would have been unlawful but for an exemption then in force; or

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) a mine (other than as aforesaid) in the case of which locked safety-lamps were being used below ground therein immediately before that date otherwise than by way of temporary precaution.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of this section, no lamps or lights other than permitted lights shall, in the case of a mine (whether of coal or of any other mineral) first opened before the said date (not being a mine to which subsection (2) of this section applies) or of a mine other than of coal first opened on or after the said date, be allowed or used below ground after—
 - (a) the occurrence in any part of the mine below ground of an ignition or explosion of gas naturally present in the mine (whether or not causing death or bodily injury); or
 - (b) the introduction of the use, in any part of the mine below ground, of locked safety-lamps otherwise than by way of temporary precaution; or
 - (c) ... ^{F52}
- (4) ^{F53}
- (5) If an inspector is satisfied with respect to a mine or a part of a mine that, by reason of the special character of the mine or part, compliance with the requirements of the foregoing provisions of this section is unnecessary, he may, by notice served on the manager of the mine, exempt the mine or part from those provisions:
Provided that no exemption from the said provisions of a part of a mine of coal shall be granted after the expiration of the period of four years beginning with the commencement of this Act or shall be granted or renewed before the expiration of that period otherwise than so as to expire not later than the expiration of that period.

Textual Amendments

F52 S. 62(3)(c) repealed by S.I. 1975/1102, Sch. 1

F53 S. 62(4) repealed by S.I. 1975/1102, Sch. 1

63 ^{F54}

Textual Amendments

F54 Ss. 63, 68(1) repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

64 Prohibition of taking into mines safety-lamps not provided by owner or of approved type.

- (1) No person shall take or use below ground in a mine a safety lamp other than one provided by the owner of the mine.
- (2) No person shall take or use below ground in a mine a safety lamp other than one [^{F55}conforming with the provisions of regulation 19(2)(a) to (d) of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 or] of a type for the time being approved by [^{F56}the Health and Safety Executive]—
 - (a) for use in mines generally, in mines of a class to which that mine belongs or in that mine; and

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) for use by all persons or persons of a class to which that person belongs.

Textual Amendments

- F55** Words inserted by S.I. 1989/635, reg. 33, Sch. 2 Part II para. 1(a)
F56 Words substituted by virtue of S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 2 para. 3

65 Offences relating to safety-lamps.

- (1) A person who damages, destroys or loses or suffers to be damaged, destroyed or lost a safety-lamp given out to him at a mine shall be guilty of an offence:
Provided that, in any proceedings taken against a person in respect of an offence under this section with respect to a safety-lamp, it shall be a defence for him to prove that he took reasonable steps for the care and preservation of the lamp and that, immediately after the occurrence of the damage, destruction or loss, as the case may be, he notified an official of the mine of its occurrence.
- (2) A person who tampers with a safety-lamp given out to him at a mine shall be guilty of an offence.

66 Prohibition of possession of smoking materials in certain mines and parts of mines.

- (1) A person who takes or has in his possession below ground in a safety-lamp mine or takes into, or has in his possession in, a safety-lamp part of a mine, any cigar or cigarette, any pipe or other contrivance for smoking or any match or mechanical lighter, shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the manager of every safety-lamp mine and of every mine containing a safety-lamp part—
- (a) to make, and to ensure the efficient carrying out of, arrangements whereby all persons employed below ground in the mine or, as the case may be, employed in the safety-lamp part thereof or such of those persons as may be selected in accordance with a system approved by an inspector by notice served on the manager of the mine, and any articles which they have with them, and all other persons and any articles which they have with them, will, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any of them has in his possession any such article as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, be searched in the authorised manner immediately before, or (if that is impracticable) immediately after, they go below ground in the mine on any occasion or, as the case may be, enter the safety-lamp part thereof on any occasion; and
 - (b) to secure that, at any time when the said arrangements are not in operation, no person goes below ground in the mine or, as the case may be, enters the safety-lamp part thereof;

and the manager of every safety-lamp mine and of every mine containing a safety-lamp part may, at any time when a person is below ground in the mine or is in the safety-lamp part thereof, as the case may be, cause him and any article which he has with him to be searched in the authorised manner for the purpose of ascertaining whether he has in his possession any such article as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section.

- (3) Where, upon a search made in pursuance of this section, a person who is about to go below ground in a safety-lamp mine or to enter a safety-lamp part of a mine is found

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

to have in his possession any such article as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, he shall be guilty of an offence.

- (4) Without prejudice to the institution of proceedings against a person for an offence under this section, any such article as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section which is found upon any search made at a mine in pursuance of this section may be seized by the person making the search and dealt with in such manner as may be directed by the manager of the mine.
- (5) No person shall, in pursuance of this section, search any other person on any occasion unless he has previously given on that occasion an opportunity to some two other persons to search himself and, if searched by them, has not been found to have in his possession any such article as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section.
- (6) A person who on any occasion refuses to allow himself or an article which he has with him to be searched in pursuance of this section shall be guilty of an offence and, without prejudice to the institution of proceedings against him in respect of the offence, if the refusal occurs before he goes below ground in a mine shall not be allowed to go below ground in it on that occasion and, if the refusal occurs when he is in a mine, shall not be allowed to remain in it on that occasion.
- (7) It shall be the duty of the manager of every safety-lamp mine and of every mine containing a safety-lamp part to secure that, at or near every place where searches are carried out under arrangements made in pursuance of paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section, notices warning persons of their liability under subsection (1) thereof are kept posted in such characters and in such positions as to be easily seen and read by persons liable to be searched.
- (8) In this section the expression “mechanical lighter” means a mechanical, chemical or electrical contrivance designed or adapted primarily for the purpose of igniting tobacco and the expression “authorised manner” means such manner as may be specified in an order made by the Minister.

67 Prohibition of taking into certain mines and parts of mines of articles producing flames or sparks.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, no article designed or adapted to produce an unprotected flame or an unprotected spark shall be taken or used below ground in a safety-lamp mine or taken into, or used in, a safety-lamp part of a mine.
- (2) Nothing in the foregoing subsection shall be construed as prohibiting—
 - (a) the taking into, or use in, a mine or part of a mine of any article in accordance with this Act or regulations;
 - (b) the taking into, or use in, a mine of any class or part of a mine of any class of an article of a description authorised by order of the Minister to be used in a mine of that class;
 - (c) the taking into, or use in, a mine or part of a mine of an article of a description authorised in writing by an inspector to be used in that mine or, as the case may be, that part of that mine.

68

(1)	F57
(2)	F58

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

F57 Ss. 63, 68(1) repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**

F58 S. 68(2) repealed by S.I. 1975/1102, **Sch. 1**

Blasting Materials and Devices

69 Blasting materials and devices.

- (1) ^{F59}
- (3) No blasting material or device shall be taken or used below ground in a mine other than material or a device provided by the owner of the mine.
- (4) In this section the expression “blasting materials and devices” means explosives and any articles designed for the purpose of breaking up or loosening minerals by means of explosion, the expansion of gas, the change of a substance from one physical state to another or a chemical reaction not constituting combustion.

Textual Amendments

F59 Ss. 69(1)(2), 70(2)(4), 71, 74(3) repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 S. 69(3)(4) excluded (1.4.1993) by S.I. 1993/208, **reg. 40(1)**.

Fire Precautions and Provisions as to Rescue

[^{F60}70 Fire precautions in case of workings served by single intake airway.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, it shall not be lawful for more than one hundred persons to be employed below ground in a mine of coal in circumstances in which, if there were a fire in any length of intake airway through which the air supply to all of those persons passes, none of them would be able to withdraw from the mine without either passing through the fire or following a way out to the surface in which, or in any part of which, the air would or might become so contaminated by the products of combustion generated by the fire as to prejudice seriously the possibility of the withdrawal of persons through it in safety, unless—
- (a) that length of intake airway and everything with which it is equipped are so constructed or treated, and so maintained and used, that that length of airway is, so far as can be reasonably foreseen, free from the risk that any fire that might break out therein would so develop as to prevent or endanger the withdrawal from the mine of those persons; or
- (b) means are provided for securing that, in the event of a fire in that length of intake airway, those persons will be able to withdraw in safety.

In computing, for the purposes of this subsection, the number of persons employed in such circumstances as aforesaid, a person going to or from his working place at the beginning or end of his shift shall, unless it is otherwise prescribed (either generally or in relation to any particular circumstances), be left out of account.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

(2) F61

(3) Regulations may provide for exempting from the provisions of subsection (1) of this section any prescribed class of mines of coal and an inspector may, by notice served on the manager of a particular mine of coal, exempt the mine or any part thereof from those provisions.

(4) F61]

Textual Amendments

F60 S. 70 repealed (1.4.1989, in part, and 1.4.1994, fully) by S.I. 1988/1729, reg. 12(1)(b)

F61 Ss. 69(1)(2), 70(2)(4), 71, 74(3) repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

71 F62

Textual Amendments

F62 Ss. 69(1)(2), 70(2)(4), 71, 74(3) repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

72 Fire-fighting and rescue operations.

Regulations may require the making of such provision as may be prescribed for all or any of the following purposes, namely, the prevention, detection and combating of outbreaks of fire at, and spontaneous heating occurring in, mines and the securing of the efficient conduct (as well in an atmosphere dangerous to life as in an atmosphere not dangerous to life) of such operations for the rescue of persons as it may be necessary to conduct at mines in consequence of the occurrence thereof of outbreaks of fire, explosions or other accidents of whatsoever kind, and in particular, but without prejudice to the foregoing provisions of this section, regulations may make provision

- (a) for the establishment and maintenance at mines of such organisations of persons as may be necessary for any of the purposes aforesaid and the provision and maintenance at mines of suitable and sufficient apparatus for any of those purposes, and, in particular, the provision at mines of adequate supplies of water for use in case of fire;
- (b) for requiring owners of mines to provide and maintain stations (hereafter in this Act referred to as “central rescue stations”) for the purpose of providing facilities common to a number of mines for the conduct of such operations as aforesaid, and for the establishment and maintenance at such stations of such organisations of persons as may be necessary for the purpose of conducting such operations and the provision and maintenance thereof of suitable and sufficient apparatus for that purpose; and
- (c) for securing the efficient training of the members of any organisation of persons maintained in pursuance of the regulations.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C4 S. 72 repealed except so far as it assigns a meaning to “central rescue stations” by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. 1

73 Means of escape from rooms in which there is special risk of fire, &c.

It shall not be lawful for a person to be employed at a mine in a room, chamber, or similar confined space in which, owing to the nature of any machinery or apparatus installed therein or of any materials stored therein, there is a risk of the outbreak of a dangerous fire or the escape of steam in substantial quantity or of noxious gas in a dangerous concentration, unless either such steps are taken (whether by the provision of two or more exits or otherwise) as are necessary for the purpose of minimising the risk of his being trapped therein in any such event or the circumstances in which he is employed are themselves such as to minimise the risk of his being so trapped.

Dust Precautions

74 Dust precautions.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to ensure that, in connection with the getting, dressing and transporting of minerals below ground in the mine, the giving off of—
- (a) any dust that is inflammable; and
 - (b) [^{F63}in the case of a mine of coal,] dust of such character and in such quantity as to be likely to be injurious to the persons employed; is minimised.
- (2) Where, in connection with the carrying on of any operations or process below ground in a mine or in a building on the surface of a mine, there is given off any dust that is inflammable or [^{F63}in the case of a mine of coal,] dust of such character and in such quantity as to be likely to be injurious to the persons employed, it shall be the duty of the manager of the mine to ensure—
- (a) that the entry of the dust into the air or its accumulation in any place in circumstances in which its accumulation in that place might be dangerous or harmful is minimised by means of steps in that behalf taken as near as possible to the point of origin of the dust;
 - (b) that any of the dust which enters the air is trapped or so dispersed as to render it harmless; and
 - (c) that any of the dust which is not prevented from accumulating in a place in circumstances in which its accumulation in that place might be dangerous or harmful is either systematically cleaned up and removed to a place where it cannot be dangerous or harmful or treated in manner approved by [^{F64}the Health and Safety Executive] for the purpose of rendering it harmless.
- (3)

F65

Textual Amendments

F63 Words in s. 74(1)(b)(2) inserted (29.9.1996) by S.I. 1996/2001, reg. 4

F64 Words substituted by virtue of S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 2 para. 3

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

F65 Ss. 69(1)(2), 70(2)(4), 71, 74(3) repealed by [S.I. 1974/2013](#), [Sch. 1 Pt. I](#)

Precautions against external Dangers to Workings

75— **F66**
77.

Textual Amendments

F66 Ss. 75–77 repealed by [S.I. 1979/318](#), [reg. 7](#)

78 **F67**

Textual Amendments

F67 [S. 78](#) repealed by [S.I. 1975/1102](#), [Sch. 1](#)

Duties of Officials and Workmen in Cases of Danger

79 Withdrawal of workmen in cases of danger.

- (1) Where inflammable gas is present at a place below ground in a mine in a concentration deemed for the purposes of this section to be excessive, the person in charge of the part of the mine in which that place is situate shall comply with the following requirements, namely:—
 - (a) he shall forthwith cause all persons employed in so much of that part of the mine as appears to him to be affected (hereinafter referred to as the “affected area”) to leave it;
 - (b) unless he is the manager of the mine, he shall, forthwith after complying with the foregoing paragraph, inform his immediate superior and the person in charge of any other part of the mine appearing to him to be likely to be affected that inflammable gas is present at the said place in a concentration deemed as aforesaid to be excessive;
 - (c) so soon after complying with paragraph (b) of this subsection (or, in a case where that paragraph does not apply, paragraph (a) of this subsection) as it is possible so to do without undue risk, he shall himself ascertain, or cause some competent person to ascertain, the condition of the affected area and the measures that it is necessary to take for the purpose of rendering it safe.
- (2) The foregoing subsection shall, with the requisite modifications, apply where it appears to the person in charge of a part of a mine below ground that there exists at a place in that part a danger constituted—
 - (a) by the presence of inflammable gas (whether or not the concentration thereof is deemed for the purposes of this section to be excessive); or
 - (b) otherwise howsoever;as it applies in the circumstances mentioned in that subsection.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) Where, on any occasion, persons have been caused to leave an affected area in pursuance of the foregoing provisions of this section, no person shall thereafter be permitted to enter it until both of the following conditions are fulfilled, namely,—
- (a) that inflammable gas is not present at any place therein in a concentration deemed for the purposes of this section to be excessive; and
 - (b) that the appropriate person is satisfied that it is free from all danger (whether constituted by the presence of inflammable gas or otherwise howsoever):

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall be taken to prohibit a person from entering an affected area for the purpose of saving life, giving effect to paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section, rendering that area or any other part of the mine safe or ascertaining either the effectiveness of any measures taken for the last-mentioned purpose or whether, apart from this proviso, persons may lawfully be permitted to enter the affected area.

- (4) Where persons have, on any occasion, been caused to leave an affected area in pursuance of the foregoing provisions of this section, the person who caused them to leave it shall record in a book to be provided for that purpose by the owner of the mine particulars of the reason for his causing them to leave that area and of the matters disclosed as a result of giving effect to paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section and subscribe his signature thereto.
- (5) For the purposes of this section the concentration of inflammable gas present at a place in a mine shall be deemed to be excessive—
- (a) if, being a place in—
 - (i) a safety lamp mine; or
 - (ii) a part of a mine other than a safety-lamp mine, being a part in which the use of lamps or lights other than permitted lights is unlawful;

the amount of such gas present in the general body of the air at that place is not less than two per cent. by volume or, if a greater percentage by volume (not exceeding two and a half) is prescribed, that greater percentage;
 - (b) if, being a place other than such a place as is mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, either—
 - (i) the amount of such gas present in the general body of the air at that place is not less than one and a quarter per cent. by volume or, if a smaller percentage by volume is prescribed, that smaller percentage;

or
 - (ii) an indication of gas is seen at that place on the lowered flame of a safety lamp;

and for the purposes of subsection (3) of this section the appropriate person, in relation to an affected area, shall be the person in charge of the part of the mine which consists of, or includes, that area, except in a case where any of his superiors is present, and in the said excepted case shall be the senior of his superiors present.

[^{F68}80 Duty of workmen to deal with, or report, danger.

If it appears to a person employed at a mine (not being an official of the mine) that a danger affecting the mine or a part thereof has arisen or is about to arise, he shall—

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) if the taking of measures to render the mine or part safe after that danger has arisen or to prevent that danger from arising, as the case may be, falls within the scope of his normal duties, forthwith take those measures; and
- (b) if not, forthwith report the matter to an official of the mine.]

Textual Amendments

F68 S. 80 repealed (1.10.1993) except for the purposes of s. 115 of this Act, by S.I. 1993/1897, regs. 1, 41(1), Sch. 3 Pt. I.

Machinery and Apparatus

81 Construction, maintenance, &c., of machinery and apparatus.

- ^{F69}(1)
- (2) ^{F70}

Textual Amendments

F69 S. 81(1) repealed (1.1.1993 partly and 1.1.1997 wholly) by S.I. 1992/2932, regs. 1(2)(3), 2, 27(1), Sch. 2 Pt.I (with reg. 27(2)).

F70 Ss. 81(2), 84(2), 91(2), 92, 96, 104, 106, 112(3), 114, 129, 138, 141(1)—(4), 142, 144, 145 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

^{F71}**82**

Textual Amendments

F71 S. 82 repealed (1.1.1993 partly and 1.1.1997 wholly) by S.I. 1991/2932, regs. 1(2)(3), 2, 27(1), Sch. 2 Pt.I (with reg. 27(2)).

83 Restrictions on use below ground of certain engines, &c.

No internal combustion engine, steam boiler or locomotive shall be used below ground in a mine otherwise than in accordance with the provisions of regulations in that behalf or with the consent of . . . ^{F72} an inspector.

Textual Amendments

F72 Words omitted by virtue of S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 2 para. 4

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C5 S. 83 excluded (1. 1. 1993) by S.I. 1992/3073, reg. 33(2)(g)

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

84 Air, gas and steam containers.

- (1) All apparatus used as, or forming, part of the equipment of a mine, being apparatus which contains or produces air, gas or steam at a pressure greater than atmospheric pressure shall be so constructed, installed, maintained and used as to obviate any risk from fire, bursting, explosion or collapse or the production of noxious gases.
- (2)^{F73}
- (3) [^{F74}The Health and Safety Executive] may at any time require any such apparatus as aforesaid at a mine to be examined by a person nominated by [^{F74}the Executive] and the manager of the mine shall give the necessary facilities for the examination; and if, as a result of the examination, it appears that any report of the result of an examination of the apparatus (being a report made in pursuance of regulations having effect by virtue of the last foregoing subsection) was inadequate or inaccurate in a material particular, the cost of the examination under this subsection shall be recoverable by [^{F74}the Health and Safety Executive] from the owner of the mine.

Textual Amendments
F73 Ss. 81(2), 84(2), 91(2), 92, 96, 104, 106, 112(3), 114, 129, 138, 141(1)—(4), 142, 144, 145 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, **Sch. 1 Pt. I**
F74 Words substituted by virtue of S.I. 1974/2013, **Sch. 2 para. 3**

^{F75}**85**

Textual Amendments
F75 S. 85 repealed (5.12.1998) by S.I. 1998/2307, **reg. 16**

Buildings, Structures, Means of Access, &c.

86 Buildings and structures to be kept safe.

All buildings and structures on the surface of a mine shall be kept in safe condition.

87 Safe means of access and safe means of employment.

- (1) There shall be provided and maintained safe means of access to every place in or on a building or structure on the surface of a mine, being a place at which any person has at any time to work.
- (2) Where a person is to work at any such place as aforesaid from which he will be liable to fall a distance of more than ten feet, then, unless the place is one which affords secure foothold and, where necessary, secure hand-hold, means shall be provided by fencing or otherwise for ensuring his safety.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

Training and Discipline

[^{F76}88] **Restriction on doing of work by unskilled persons.**

It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to secure that no person is employed thereat in any work otherwise than under the instruction and supervision of some person competent to give instruction in, and supervise, the doing of that work, unless the first-mentioned person has received adequate instruction in, and (where necessary) training for, the doing of that work and is competent to do it without supervision.]

Textual Amendments

F76 S. 88 repealed (1.10.1993) except for the purposes of s. 115 of this Act, by S.I. 1993/1897, reg. 41(1), Sch. 3 Pt. I.

[^{F77}89] **Penalization of failure to observe safety directions, &c.**

A person employed at a mine who contravenes—

- (a) any transport or support [^{F78}or tipping] rules having effect with respect to the mine; or
- (b) any directions given to him by or on behalf of the owner or manager of the mine or any rule made by the manager of the mine for regulating the conduct either of all persons employed thereat or any class of persons so employed to which that person belongs, being directions given, or a rule made, for the purpose of securing compliance with this Act, orders made thereunder or regulations or any transport or support [^{F78}or tipping] rules having effect with respect to the mine or of securing the safety or health of that person or any other person employed at the mine;

shall be guilty of an offence.]

Textual Amendments

F77 S. 89 repealed (1.10.1993) except for the purposes of s. 115 of this Act, by S.I. 1993/1897, reg. 41(1), Sch. 3 Pt. I.

F78 Words inserted by Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969 (c. 10), Sch. 1 para. 3

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C6 S. 89 amended by Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969 (c. 10), Sch. 1 para. 3

[^{F79}90] **Penalization of negligent acts or omissions and unauthorised removal, &c., of articles.**

- (1) A person who negligently or wilfully does at a mine anything likely to endanger the safety of the mine or the safety or health of persons thereat or negligently or wilfully omits to do at a mine anything necessary for securing the safety of the mine or the safety or health of persons thereat shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) A person (not being an official of the mine) who, without permission granted by such an official, removes, alters or tampers with anything provided at a mine for the purpose

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

of securing the safety or health of persons employed thereat shall be guilty of an offence.]

Textual Amendments

F79 S. 90 repealed (1.10.1993) except for the purposes of s. 115 of this Act, by S.I. 1993/1897, reg. 41(1), Sch. 3 Pt.I.

First Aid

^{F80}91

Textual Amendments

F80 S. 91 repealed (1.10.1993) by 1993/1897, reg. 41(1), Sch. 3 Pt. I.

Medical Examinations and Prohibition of Heavy Work

92 ^{F81}

Textual Amendments

F81 Ss. 81(2), 84(2), 91(2), 92, 96, 104, 106, 112(3), 114, 129, 138, 141(1)—(4), 142, 144, 145 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

^{F82}93

Textual Amendments

F82 S. 93 repealed (1. 1. 1993) by S.I. 1992/2793, reg. 8(1), Sch. 2 Pt.I.

General Welfare Provisions

94 Sanitary conveniences.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to secure the provision thereat (as well below as above ground) of sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences for the use of persons employed thereat being, in a case where persons of both sexes are, or are intended to be, so employed, conveniences affording proper separate accommodation for persons of each sex.
- (2) All sanitary conveniences provided in pursuance of the foregoing subsection shall be kept clean and properly maintained and reasonable provision shall be made for lighting them.

Status: Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III. (See end of Document for details)

95 Measures against vermin and insects.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the owner of every mine to take such steps as are necessary to secure that all parts of the mine below ground are kept free from rats and mice . . . ^{F83}
- (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as excluding the application to parts of mines below ground of any of the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests^{MI} Act 1949.

Textual Amendments

F83 Words repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

Marginal Citations

M1 1949 c. 55.

96 ^{F84}

Textual Amendments

F84 Ss. 81(2), 84(2), 91(2), 92, 96, 104, 106, 112(3), 114, 129, 138, 141(1)—(4), 142, 144, 145 repealed by S.I. 1974/2013, Sch. 1 Pt. I

97 Supply of drinking water.

There shall be provided and maintained on the surface of every mine, at suitable points conveniently accessible to all persons employed at the mine, an adequate supply of wholesome drinking water.

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/12/1999.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mines and Quarries Act 1954, Part III.