

§ 37.53

(2) Physicians who desire to be A Readers must demonstrate their proficiency in classifying the pneumoconioses by either:

(i) Submitting to NIOSH from the physician's files six sample chest radiographs which are considered properly classified by one or more individuals selected by NIOSH from the panel of B Readers. The six radiographs must consist of two without pneumoconiosis, two with simple pneumoconiosis, and two with complicated pneumoconiosis (these may be the same radiographs submitted for facility approval pursuant to §37.43 and §37.44). The films will be returned to the physician. The interpretations must be on the Roentgenographic Interpretation Form (Form CDC/NIOSH (M)2.8), or;

(ii) Satisfactory completion, since June 11, 1970, of a course approved by NIOSH on the ILO International Classification of Radiographs of Pneumoconioses.

(b) Final or B Readers:

(1) Approval as a B Reader established prior to October 1, 1976, is hereby terminated.

(2) Proficiency in evaluating chest radiographs for radiographic quality and in the use of the ILO Classification for interpreting chest radiographs for pneumoconiosis and other diseases must be demonstrated by those physicians who desire to be B Readers by taking and passing a specially-designed proficiency examination given on behalf of or by NIOSH at a time and place specified by NIOSH. Each physician who desires to take the digital version of the examination will be provided a complete set of the current NIOSH-approved standard reference digital radiographs. Physicians who qualify under this provision need not be qualified under paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) Physicians who wish to participate in the program must familiarize themselves with the necessary components for attainment of reliable classification of chest radiographs for the pneumoconioses² and apply using an

²NIOSH Safety and Health Topic. Chest Radiography: Radiographic Classification [<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/chestradiography/radiographic-classification.html>]. Date accessed: June 27, 2012.

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Interpreting Physician Certification Document (Form CDC/NIOSH (M)2.12).

[77 FR 56734, Sept. 13, 2012]

§ 37.53 Method of obtaining definitive interpretations.

(a) All chest radiographs which are first interpreted by an A or B Reader will be submitted by NIOSH to a B Reader qualified as described in §37.52. If there is agreement between the two interpretations, as described in paragraph (b) of this section, the result will be considered final and reported to MSHA for transmittal to the miner. When agreement is lacking, NIOSH must obtain a third interpretation from the panel of B Readers. If any two of the three interpretations demonstrate agreement, the result must be considered the final determination. If agreement is lacking among the three interpretations, NIOSH will obtain independent classifications from two additional B Readers selected from the panel, and the final determination will be the median category derived from the total of five classifications.

(b) Two interpretations must be considered to be in agreement when they are derived from complete classifications recorded using approved paper or electronic versions of the Roentgenographic Interpretation Form (Form CDC/NIOSH (M)2.8) and received by NIOSH, and both find either stage A, B, or C complicated pneumoconiosis, or, for simple pneumoconiosis, are both in the same major category or (with one exception noted below) are within one minor category (ILO Classification 12-point scale) of each other. In the last situation, the higher of the two interpretations must be reported. The only exception to the one minor category principle is a reading sequence of ¼, ½, or ¾, ¾, which is not considered agreement.

[77 FR 56734, Sept. 13, 2012]

§ 37.54 Notification of abnormal radiographic findings.

(a) Findings of, or findings suggesting, abnormality of cardiac shape or size, tuberculosis, lung cancer, or any other significant abnormal findings other than pneumoconiosis must be communicated by the first physician

to interpret the radiograph to the miner indicated on the Miner Identification Document or to the miner's designated physician. A notice of the communication must be submitted to NIOSH. When significant abnormal findings are reported, NIOSH will also notify the miner to contact his or her physician.

(b) In addition, when NIOSH has more than one radiograph of a miner in its files and the most recent examination was found by the first physician to interpret the radiograph or subsequently by NIOSH B Readers to show an abnormality of cardiac shape or size, tuberculosis, cancer, complicated pneumoconiosis, and any other significant abnormal findings, NIOSH will arrange for a licensed physician to compare the most recent image and interpretation to older images and NIOSH will inform the miner of any significant changes or progression of disease or other findings.

(c) All final findings regarding pneumoconiosis will be sent to the miner by MSHA in accordance with section 203 of the Act (see 30 CFR part 90). Positive findings with regard to pneumoconiosis will be reported to the miner or to the miner's designated physician by NIOSH.

(d) NIOSH will make every reasonable effort to process the findings described in paragraph (c) of this section within 60 days of receipt of the information described in §37.60 in a complete and acceptable form. The information forwarded to MSHA will be in a form intended to facilitate prompt dispatch of the findings to the miner. The results of an examination made of a miner may not be processed by NIOSH if the examination was made within 6 months of the date of a previous acceptable examination.

[77 FR 56744, Sept. 13, 2012]

§37.60 Submitting required chest roentgenograms and miner identification documents.

(a) Each chest radiograph required to be made under this subpart, together with the completed Roentgenographic Interpretation Form and the completed Miner Identification Document, must be submitted together for each miner to NIOSH within 14 calendar days after

the radiographic examination is given and become the property of NIOSH.

(1) When the radiograph is digital, the image file for each radiograph, together with either hard copy or electronic versions of the completed Roentgenographic Interpretation Form and the completed Miner Identification Document, must be submitted to NIOSH using the software and format specified by NIOSH either using portable electronic media, or a secure electronic file transfer within 14 calendar days after the radiographic examination. NIOSH will notify the submitting facility when it has received the image files and forms from the examination. After this notification, the facility will permanently delete, or if this is not technologically feasible for the imaging system used, render permanently inaccessible all files and forms from its electronic and physical files.

(2) [Reserved]

(b) If NIOSH deems any submission under paragraph (a) of this section inadequate, it will notify the operator of the deficiency. The operator must promptly make appropriate arrangements for the necessary reexamination.

(c) Failure to comply with paragraph (a) or (b) of this section will be cause to revoke approval of a plan or any other approval as may be appropriate. An approval that has been revoked may be reinstated at the discretion of NIOSH after it receives satisfactory assurances and evidence that all deficiencies have been corrected and that effective controls have been instituted to prevent a recurrence.

(d) Chest radiographs and other required documents must be submitted only for miners.

(e) If a miner refuses to participate in all phases of the examination prescribed in this subpart, no report need be made. If a miner refuses to participate in any phase of the examination prescribed in this subpart, all the forms shall be submitted with his or her name and social security account number on each. If any of the forms cannot be completed because of the miner's refusal, it shall be marked "Miner Refuses," and shall be submitted. No submission shall be made, however, without a completed miner identification document containing the