



State of West Virginia
Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor

WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training
Eugene White, Director
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January 14, 2013

Mr. Timothy C. Rice, President
R.T. Welding & Fabrication, Inc.
PO Box 1686
Harlan, Kentucky 40831

Sir,

After the evaluation of the documentation submitted the Office of Miner's Health Safety and Training approves the modification of the approval for the Safe Haven™ emergency shelter by the replacement of the automatic purge air curtain valve with manual purge air curtain valve and changing the occupant entry procedure to replace the original steps in the Operation Manual due to the modification of the purge air door valve. These steps begin in the current manual on page 5. When the door/hatch is opened there will no longer be the rush of air from inside the chamber air lock. The purge air system will be activated by following these steps:

1. Open the door just enough to reach inside to the left side of the door to turn on the purge air by shifting the handle.
2. Upon entering; turn the light switch, located on the wall to you left, turning on chamber lights Both purge air tanks in the chamber are stored, turned on so there will be no need to check either tank.
3. The last person entering the air lock shall close the outside door securely.
4. After the main outside door is closed, the purge air valve should be switched to the closed position providing the air lock is clear of smoke, harmful gases or water.
5. After entering the main living quarters the interior door may be closed.

The users will be instructed to then continue with step 2 of the procedure.

Additionally a procedure for periodic inspection of the Safe Haven™ to determine the availability of compressed oxygen and air is added as follows:

1. Break door anti-tamper seal on the outside door
2. Open chamber door without activating the purge air valve and turn on the lights of the chamber
3. Enter the second door through the air lock.
4. Inspect the compressed air gauge for proper levels located to the right of the living quarter's entrance.
5. Proceed to the rear of the chamber and inspect the compressed oxygen gauge for proper levels, located to the rear right of the living quarters of the chamber.
6. Record both readings and exit the chamber closing the inner chamber door turning off the light switch and exiting the outer door of the chamber. (All tanks, oxygen and purge air tanks are to be in the on position with the oxygen gauge reading 2000-2100psi and the purge air tank gauge reading 2000-2100psi)
7. Replace anti-tamper door seal with new seal and record the number.

All other aspects the previous approval remains unchanged.

R.T. Welding & Fabrication, Inc. will ensure that training is conducted for all miners that may use a Safe Haven™ thus modified.

When constructed and maintained as approved the Safe Haven™ can be utilized for use in meeting the Emergency Shelters/Chambers requirements outlined in the West Virginia Emergency Rule Governing Protective Clothing and Equipment, §56-4-8 with the conditions noted.


The Safe Haven™ was previously and remains approved for 16 miners for application in underground mines for use when built and provisioned as designed, including the use of desiccant, and providing a minimum of 96 hours life support.

The West Virginia approval requires an MSHA approval for all electrical items used in conjunction with the Safe Haven™ with proof of such approvals submitted to this office.

R.T. Welding & Fabrication, Inc. shall, upon request, provide this office with verification of valid orders, delivery dates, and status of delivery in addition to proof of compliance with any directives as required for this office.

Any changes required or enhancements to the approved design affecting the ability to meet any provision of §56-4-8 shall require approval of this Office prior to any affected Safe Haven™ being placed into operation.

Thank you,



Eugene White
Director