

Mining Long-Term Field Evaluation (LTFE) Program

FY17 (927PP30)

Objectives

To evaluate how well Self-Contained Self-Rescuers (SCSRs) have endured the underground coal mining environment with respect to both physical damage and the effects of aging. To provide input to stakeholders on the long-term performance, reliability, and effectiveness of SCSRs in addition to user maintenance compliance data.



Applicable Standards

- 42 CFR Part 84
- 30 CFR Section 75.1714

Key Partners

- MSHA, UMWA, mine operators

Stakeholders

- MSHA
- SCSR manufacturers
- Mine operators
- Miners

Project Scope

Retrieve at least 100 of each SCSR type during each collection phase from all MSHA mining districts in the United States. SCSRs retrieved are chosen randomly from the latest MSHA SCSR inventory list before each collection and evaluation phase of the LTFE Program. Perform manufacturer's recommended inspections in the field and laboratory to determine qualification for evaluation. Test qualified field-retrieved SCSR units at NIOSH's Automated Breathing and Metabolic Simulator to evaluate performance. Report test results to stakeholders and generate Long-Term Random (LTR) peer review publications.

Milestones FY17

- 1Q FY17 Complete LTR1, LTR2, and LTR3 reports
- 2Q FY17 Post LTR1 and LTR2 reports on NIOSH website for comment
- 3Q FY17 Perform supplemental LTR3 testing, update LTR3 report
- 3Q FY17 Post LTR3 on NIOSH website for comment; finalize all LTR reports
- 3Q FY17 Generate random SCSR collection list for LTR4
- 4Q FY17 Begin LTR4 collection and testing

Outputs

- LTFE Reports, Phases 1-10
- LTR1, LTR2, LTR3 Reports

Outcomes

- Confirm SCSRs are still performing to standards after approval for sale and use
- Confirm SCSRs are being properly maintained by users
- Provide input to stakeholders on the long-term reliability and effectiveness of SCSRs
- Provide guidance to stakeholders for continual product performance improvement

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