

PUNJAB COAL MINES RESCUE RULES, 1988

[15th February, 1990]

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TEXT

PUNJAB COAL MINES RESCUE RULES, 1988¹

[15th February, 1990]

No. S.O. (LAB-VI) 8-2/75 — In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 30-A of the Mines Act, 1923, the Governor of the Punjab is pleased to make the Punjab Coal Mines Rescue Rules, 1988.

CHAPTER - I

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) These rules may be called the Punjab Coal Mines Rescue Rules, 1988.
 - (2) They shall come into force with immediate effect.
2. **Extent.**- They shall apply to the Coal Mines in the Province of the Punjab.
3. **Definitions.**- In these rules unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context:-
 - (a) "Act" means the Mines Act 1923.
 - (b) "Chief Inspector" means the Chief Inspector of Mines Punjab.
 - (c) "Committee" means the Rescue Station Committee constituted under Rule 4.
 - (d) "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Committee.
 - (e) "Excise Duty" means the duty levied on the despatch of coal from mines.
 - (f) "Government" means the Government of the Punjab.
 - (g) "Member" means a Member of the Committee.
 - (h) "Rescue Station" means the Rescue Station(s) established under Rule 33 of these rules; and
 - (i) "Schedule" means Schedule to these Rules.

CHAPTER II

4. **Constitution of Rescue Station Committee.**- (1) Government shall constitute a Committee consisting of the following members for the maintenance and management of the Rescue Station in the Punjab namely:
 - (i) Chief Inspector of Mines.
 - (ii) A nominee of the Director of the Industries and Mineral Development (not below the rank of joint Director).
 - (iii) A person nominated by the Mine Owners to represent the interest of Mine Owners.
 - (iv) A person nominated by the Institute of Mining Engineers to represent the interest of Mine Managers.
 - (v) Two persons nominated by the Government to represent the interest of workers; and
 - (vi) Rescue Superintendent as Member/Secretary of the Committee.(2) The Chief Inspector shall act as Chairman despite any vacancy in the Committee and subject to the provision of Rule 12 all business transacted by the Committee during such period shall be considered as valid.
5. **Term of Office.**- (1) Save as otherwise provided in these rules a member shall hold office for three years from the date of his appointment and shall be eligible for renomination.
 - (2) A member nominated to fill a casual vacancy or a member appointed by the Government under Rule 4(1) shall hold office so long as the member whose place he fills would have been entitled to hold office if the vacancy had not occurred or the nomination had been made as the case may be.
6. **Resignation.**- Any member other than the Chairman may resign his office by letter addressed to the Chairman.

¹ The Punjab Gazette. Extr Feb 15, 1990, p. 253-276.

7. Absence from Pakistan.- Before a member leaves Pakistan, he shall intimate to the Chairman the date of his departure from and the date of his expected return to Pakistan. Provided that if he does not do so he will be deemed to have resigned with effect from the date of his departure from Pakistan.

8. Vacation of Office.- A member shall be deemed to have vacated a seat in the Committee;

- (i) If he loses the confidence of the body he is representing;
- (ii) If he is convicted of any offence punishable under the Pakistan Penal Code 1860 and which is non-bailable under the Provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code 1898;
- (iii) If he is absent without leave from three consecutive meetings of the Committee of which he has notice; and
- (iv) If he leaves or intends to leave Pakistan for a period of longer than 6 months.

9. Time and Place of Meeting.- The Chairman may at any convenient time and place call a meeting of the Committee and shall also do so if a requisition for it is made to him by four other members.

10. Notice of Meetings.- No meeting of the Committee shall be held unless a 14 days notice is given to its members.

Provided that in cases of urgency an emergency meeting may be convened by the Chairman who shall inform the members of the agenda and the reasons for which he considers it an urgent business not related to the subject matter shall not be introduced or transacted at an emergent meetings.

11. Chairman at Meetings.- The Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Committee at which he is present. If the Chairman is absent from any meeting the member present shall elect a Chairman for that meeting from amongst their members to preside over it.

12. Quorum.- No business shall be transacted at meeting for the Committee unless four members are present.

Provided that the condition of quorum shall not apply to an emergent meeting.

13. Powers and Duties of the Chairman.- The chairman shall be the principal Executive Officer of the Committee and in addition to other powers and duties conferred upon him by these rules he shall;

- (a) Present all important papers and matters to the Committee as early as is practicable;
- (b) Issue orders as to the mode of carrying out the decisions of the Committee;
- (c) Sign or subject to a resolution by the Committee authorise some other person to sign cheques to be issued on behalf of the Committee;
- (d) Grant or subject to a resolution by the Committee authorise some other person to grant receipts on behalf of the Committee for all moneys received under these rules;
- (e) Maintain or cause to be maintained an account of the receipts and expenditure of the Committee; and
- (f) Present an annual Report on the working of the Committee to the Committee for approval and submit it to the Government in the form approved by the Committee.

14. Disposal of Business.- (1) All questions which the Committee is required to take into consideration shall be so considered either at its meetings or by circulation of the papers as the Chairman may direct.

(2) When a question is referred by circulation of papers any member may request that the question be considered in a meeting of the Committee. If three or more members make such request the Chairman shall direct that it be so considered.

15. List of Business.- (1) The Chairman shall circulate the agenda alongwith the notice of the meeting of the members.

(2) No business other than at the agenda shall be considered without the permission to the Chairman.

16. Decision by Majority.- (1) Every question at a meeting of the Committee or by circulation of papers shall be decided by a majority of votes of the members voting or opining on it.

(2) In the case of an equal division of votes or opinion, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

17. Committee's Establishment.- (1) The Committee shall from time to time fix the strength of establishment and the salaries and allowances of all its employees as it thinks fit.

(2) Appointments shall be made by the Chairman under relevant Government rules.

(3) Any person appointed under these rules shall be deemed to be a public servant.

18. The Non-Official Members.- Non-Official members of the Committee members shall be entitled to Travelling Allowance admissible to the Government Officers of the First Class and to a daily allowance of Rs.30/-per day for each meeting attended by them.

CHAPTER III ASSESSMENT & RECOVERY

19. Imposition of Excise Duty.- There shall be levied and collected on all coal produced in and despatched from collieries an excise duty in the Punjab at the rate prescribed by the Government from time to time.

20. Recovery of Duty.- (1) The excise duty impose under Section 30-A of the Act shall when such minerals are despatched by rail from mines be collected by the railway authorities concerned by means of surcharge on freight and such excise duty shall be recovered:-

(a) From the consigner if the freight charges are pre-paid at the forwarding station.

(b) From the consignee, if the freight charges are collected at the destination of the consignments; and

(c) From the party paying the freight if the consignment is booked on the "weight only" System.

(2) Such duty shall, when such minerals are despatched from any mine otherwise than by rail, be recovered from the owner and collected in the manner as provided in this Chapter.

21. Maintenance of Register of Despatches and Submission of Returns.- (1) Every owner shall maintain in Form 'D' a register of despatches of all minerals despatched otherwise than by rail and shall record therein production during the month and the datewise despatches made therefrom, separately and consecutively. At the close of each month, the entries made against each date in the register shall be totaled and the tonnage despatched during the month shall be entered in the register along with the closing balance. The excise duty payable on the total tonnage despatched shall be worked out and recorded therein.

(2) In calculating the total tonnage of despatched a quantity of less than half a ton shall be ignored and a quantity of half ton or more shall be reckoned as one ton.

(3) Every owner shall submit to the Chief Inspector in duplicate a return in Form 'D' for each month in accordance with the entries made in the register maintained under sub-rule (1) duly signed by such owner or any person authorised by him in this behalf.

(4) A return so submitted shall reach the Chief Inspector not later than the last day of the month following the month to which the return pertains.

(5) Where no mineral is despatched in any month, the owner shall submit to the Chief Inspector within the time specified in sub-rule (4) a nil return in duplicate for that month accompanied by a certificate duly signed by the owner or any person so authorised by him to the effect that no mineral was despatched during that month.

Provided that the Chief Inspector on his satisfaction in this behalf may permit in writing to submit a consolidated return in Form 'D' for such period not exceeding one year as may be specified in the permit. The consolidated return so submitted shall reach the Chief Inspector not later than the last day of the month immediately following the period specified in the permit.

22. Provisional Assessment & Payment of Excise Duty.- The amount of duty of excise payable for any month and recorded in the register maintained under rule 21(1) shall be deemed a provisional assessment of the duty and shall be subject to a final assessment rule 26.

23. Manner of Payment of Duty.- (1) The owner shall pay such duty as assessed under the rule 22 into the nearest treasury not later than the last day of the month following the month for which it is payable.

(2) The payment into the treasury shall be made by means of challan the remittance being shown as creditable to Government under the Head "MISCELLANEOUS-1000-NON TAX RECEIPTS-1300-MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS-1390-OTHERS-1391-RECEIPTS FROM LEVY OF EXCISE DUTY IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 30-A OF THE MINES ACT 1923".

(3) The challan shall be filled in duplicate a copy of which shall be retained by the treasury and the other shall be returned to the depositor who shall transmit it to the Chief Inspector as proof of payment alongwith monthly return prescribed in sub-rule (3) of Rule 21 after entering the number, date and amount shown in the treasury receipt in both the copies of the return.

24. Delay in Submission of Return or Incorrect Returns.- In the return for any month does not reach the Chief Inspector within the prescribed time by rule 21 or incorrect return is submitted to him, the owner of the mine may be proceeded against under Section 35 and 36 of the Act as the case may be.

25. Late Returns and Revision of Returns.- If the owner has not furnished by the prescribed or having furnished it discovers any omission or wrong statement therein he may furnish a return or a revised return as the case may be at any time before the order of final assessment is passed.

26. Final Assessment of Excise Duty.- (1) If the Chief Inspector is satisfied that the return submitted by any owner is correct and complete he shall confirm the provisional assessment referred to in rule 22 as final and send as intimation to that effect to the owner in Form 'E' within three months from the date of receipt of the return.

(2)(a) If the Chief Inspector is not so satisfied he may either depute an officer of the purpose of certification of the correctness and completeness of the return with reference to the books and accounts and other relevant records of the mine at the premises or issue a notice in Form 'R-1' to the owner requiring him to attend either personally or through duly authorised representatives on the date and place so specified in the notice. The Officer deputed by the Chief Inspector shall be afforded all necessary facilities at the premises of the mine for the purpose of certification as aforesaid.

(b) After verification of the return or after hearing such evidence as the owner may produce in compliance with the notice issued under clause (a) and such evidence as the Chief Inspector may require on specified points the Chief Inspector shall as soon as possible assess the amount of duty due from the owner and that shall be final assessment.

(c) On a final assessment if a further sum is found due from the owner the Chief Inspector shall issue a Demand Notice to the owner in Form 'S' requiring the payment of balance due within the time prescribed therein.

(d) If any owner having furnished a return for a month fails to comply with any of the requirement of the notice issued to him under clause (a) the Chief Inspector shall assess such amount of the duty to be recovered from him as in his judgment is just and proper and that shall be final assessment.

(3) If any owner does not furnish a return in Form 'D' for any month by the prescribed date in the manner laid down in rules 22 and 24, the Chief Inspector shall after giving the owner a reasonable opportunity of being heard by the issue of a notice in Form 'R-2' assess the amount of duty from him which in his opinion is just and proper.

(4) If Chief Inspector is of the opinion that an owner has actually despatched during a month minerals otherwise than by rail but has failed to furnish a return or pay the amount of provisional assessment by the time fixed. Chief Inspector shall fix a date ordinarily not earlier than thirty days from the date of issue of a notice in Form R-1 or R-3 for producing such accounts and documents as he may require and for considering any objection which the owner may wish to offer.

(5) After considering any objection made by the owner and any evidence produced in support thereof the Chief Inspector shall assess the amount of duty to be paid by owner and shall briefly record his findings and pass his final assessment order in Form 'X'.

(6) The Amount of duty thus assessed the date by which it has to be deposited which shall not ordinarily be earlier than thirty days from the date of issue of Demand Notice and any other particulars connected therewith shall be specified in the Demand Notice in Form "S".

(7) The mode of payment into the treasury of the amount specified in the Demand Notice in Form "S" shall be the same as laid down in rule 23 except that the copy of the treasury challan shall be forwarded to the Chief Inspector with a covering letter quoting reference to the Demand Notice.

(8) Certified copies of the assessment order may be obtained from the Chief Inspector office on payment to him a fee of Rs. 5/- for each copy. The amount paid on this account shall be credited by the Chief Inspector to the following Provincial Head under Rescue Rule 26 (5) *ibid*:-

"MISCELLANEOUS US-1000 - NON TAX RECEIPTS – 1300 – MISC-RECEIPTS-1390-OTHERS-1391 – RECEIPTS FROM LEVY OF EXCISE DUTY IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 30-A OF THE MINES ACT, 1923".

27. Recovery of Duty on Minerals which has escaped assessment.- (a) If the Chief Inspector has reason to believe that by reason by the concealment by the owner of the particulars of despatches of minerals from any mine such despatches have escaped excise duty or;

(b) Notwithstanding that there has been no such concealment of particulars on the part of the owner the Chief Inspector has in consequence of information reasons to believe that any despatches of minerals from a mine have escaped excise duty.

The Chief Inspector may in cases falling under clause (a) at any time within four years and in cases falling under clause (b) at any time within two years in the end of the month the return in respect of which should have included such despatches of minerals and all the provisions of these rules shall apply to the excise duty so assessed as if such assessment was included in the final assessment of excise duty under rule 26.

Provided that the Chief Inspector before exercising the powers conferred upon him under this rule shall give the owner a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

28. Recovery of Un-paid Excise Duty & Penalty.- (1) Any amount of duty of excise which remains un-paid after the date specified in the Demand Notice and amount of penalty which is imposed on an owner for violation of any of the provision of these rules shall be recovered as arrear of land revenue and shall be credited to Government in the manner specified in rule 23.

(2) The Chief Inspector shall (in order to recover the un-paid amount of cess and also the penalty) apply to the Collector of the District in which the mine is situated or the District where the office of the firm is situated for transacting business for the recovery of the amount remaining un-paid.

(3) The Collector shall send a report to the Chief Inspector by the 10th of each month showing the amount recovered by him during the proceeding month.

29. Review.- (1) Within thirty days from the date of issue of Demand Notice in Form "S" any owner may submit a petition to the Chief Inspector asking for a review of such assessment; provided that no such petition shall be entertained unless the amount assessed has been paid by the owner as per rule 26.

(2) Every petition for review shall be accompanied by a memorandum setting forth clearly the principal grounds of objection against the assessment a copy of the treasury challan showing that the amount assessed has been paid to the Government and a certified copy of the assessment order.

(3) The Chief Inspector shall after verifying the assessment from the record of his office satisfy himself as to the correctness of the grounds in the petition and he found that a prima facie error of judgment has been made shall issue an order either reducing or annulling the assessment.

(4) If on the other hand he finds that the assessment is correct the Chief Inspector shall after giving the petition an opportunity of being heard issue an order confirming the assessment. Such order of the Chief Inspector shall be final.

(5) The Chief Inspector shall record his decision in writing.

(6) The petitioner shall be entitled to a copy of such order free of cost and as soon as possible.

(7) So much of the duty originally assessed upon and paid by the owner as is found not to be due from him a result of review under sub-rule (1) shall be refunded to the owner or adjusted in the account of the owner as the Chief Inspector may deem fit.

(8) The refund under sub-rule (7) shall be made in cash by drawing the amount from the treasury on an ordinary contingent bill having details of the number of review petition, date of the order of review, the number date and amount of the treasury challan.

30. Records of Collection.- (1) The proper account of the collection of Duty shall be maintained showing the following in particular:-

- (a) Assessment and collection of duty.
- (b) Particulars of petitions and orders thereon.
- (c) Refunds.

(2) All the papers relating to the assessment of duty in respect of a mine shall be kept together and shall form part of assessment record.

31. Remittance of Excise Duty.- (1) The total amount of excise duty collected by the railway administration less.

- (a) authorized funds;
- (b) A deduction of such percentage as Government may fix towards the cost of collection shall be remitted quarterly to the State Bank of Pakistan at Lahore under advice to the Accountant General, Punjab, Lahore.

(2) An amount equivalent to the amount of excise duty credited to the Provisional Revenues under sub-rule (1) shall be transferred to the Rescue Fund is a special account under the Punjab Government.

32. Refund and Recoveries.- (1) When the amount of the excise duty has not been collected wholly or in part or where the amount collected is in excess of the amount due the Railway administration shall deal with the undercharge or over-charge as the case may be on the same principles as apply to undercharges and overcharges in regard to Railway freight charges.

(2) When it is proved to the satisfaction of the Government or any person authorised in this behalf by the Government that any mineral on which the duty of excise under Section 30-A had previously been collected Government or the person authorised in this behalf by Government may order refund of an amount equal to the duty collected on such minerals to the persons from whom such duty was collected.

CHAPTER IV RESCUE STATION

33. Maintenance & Location of Rescue Station.- Government shall establish and maintain Rescue Station at Khushab and two sub-station one each at Makerwal and Choa Saidu Shah and such other stations which Government may establish from time to time.

34. Appointment of Superintendent.- The Rescue shall be placed under the control of a qualified Mining Engineer who holds degree in Mining Engineering from a recognized University and holds First Class Mine Manager's Certificate of Competency granted under the Act and has requisite experience as notified by the Government from time to time.

35. Appointment of Instructors & Permanent Rescue Corps.- (a) Competent persons shall be employed as Instructor(s) to train rescue workers and not less than four trained workers to form a permanent rescue corps at each rescue station.

(b) No person shall be appointed as Instructor unless he is a graduate Mining Engineer and has had three years underground experience in a coal mine or is holder of First Class Certificate of Competency.

(c) No person shall be appointed as Member of the Corp unless he is a matriculate and has had three years experience in a coal mine or one year experience in Rescue and Recovery and declared medically fit as referred to in Schedule IV.

(d) At least one Instructor shall always be in attendance at the station in the absence of the Superintendent.

- (e) It shall be the duty of the Superintendent:-

- (i) to conduct rescue work and take all practical steps to minimize danger in mines after any explosion or outbreak of fire or dangerous irruption of noxious or inflammable gas or fall of roof sides and subsidence;
- (ii) to provide training facilities at the Rescue Station or at the mine to persons nominated by the mine owner to form Rescue Corps at their respective mines;
- (iii) to fulfil any other obligations imposed upon them by these rules.

(f) Permanent Rescue Corps of Rescue station shall not be employed for reopening or recovering a mine or part thereof which has been closed or sealed on account of explosion, outbreak of fire, irruption of noxious inflammable gases, fall of roof, sides and subsidence.

(g) An instructor shall be included in the permanent Rescue Corps for the purpose of sub-rule (a) and shall act as a leader of the corps when engaged in rescue work.

36. Attendance of Corps at Station.- The members of the rescue corps maintained at a Rescue Station shall reside permanently at the Station.

37. Rescue Apparatus and Equipment.- (1) At every rescue station there shall be provided and maintained in good order and ready for immediate use apparatus and equipment suitable and sufficient to fulfill the requirements of these rules and shall include at least apparatus specified in Schedule 1.

(2) The apparatus and equipments to be provided in pursuance of sub-rule (1) shall be of a type of standard approved by the Chief Inspector.

(3) Breathing apparatus for use at a mine in rescue work or training shall be obtained from the Rescue Station serving the mine.

(4) All breathing apparatus and every flow-meter shall be adjusted and tested periodically and the purity of oxygen for use in breathing apparatus shall also be tested. The tests shall be made in the manner prescribed in Schedule II.

38. Accident caused by Equipment or Apparatus.- (1) A report in writing giving particulars of a accident or other dangerous occurrence at any mines arising out of the use of any breathing apparatus or smoke helmets or other apparatus serving the same purpose shall be sent to the Inspector of the Region by the Manager of the Mine within 24 hours of such occurrence or accident.

(2) If any such accident or dangerous occurrence takes place at any Rescue Station, a similar report shall be sent by the Superintendent of the Station to the Inspector of the Region.

39. Facilities to be afforded to Inspectors.- Every owner agent and manger of a mine shall afford the Chief Inspector and every Inspector and every person authorised under Section 7 reasonable facilities for making an entry, the inspection, survey, measurement, examination or inquiry under Act and the Rules there under.

40. The Owner, agent or manager of every mine affiliated to a rescue station shall arrange for the Superintendent to inspect atleast once in every six months the apparatus and equipment provided at the mine for rescue work, training and practice, and if no such inspection the Superintendent considers that there is anything defective or lacking he shall report it to the manager of the mine who shall rectify it.

CHAPTER V ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT AT MINES

41. Appointment of workers from mines to work with permanent rescue corps.- The manager or the owner of a mine or mines in the Punjab employing 20 or more persons underground on any one day of the proceeding twelve months shall appoint a fully trained man for every 50 employees or less to cooperate with the Rescue Station in rescue work and practice.

42. Disposition of rescue workers.- (1) So far as practicable it shall be arranged that trained man for rescue work at a mine where there is more than one shall not be employed underground at the same time.

(2) Effective arrangement shall be made at every mine for summoning rescue workers immediately when their services are required.

43. Wireless Communication.- Every coal mines duly notified and situated in the Punjab shall be in telephonic connection or on wireless communication with the Rescue Station serving the mine subject to approved by the Government.

44. Tracing showing ventilation etc.- There shall be kept at every coal mine in the Punjab other than open pit mine in which the number of persons employed exceeds twenty in a form suitable for use by rescue workers a sufficient number of clear and legible tracings not being less than three of the working of mine upto date and not more than six months old showing the ventilation and all principal doors, stopping and air crossing regulators and fire stations and distinguishing the intake airways by a different colour from the return airways. The signs used in the tracing shall be those specified in Schedule III.

45. Selection of Rescue Workers.- The persons to be trained in rescue work shall be carefully selected on the grounds of their coolness of mind, power of endurance and general suitability for the work and in the case of men from mines to be trained to cooperate with permanent rescue corps also on the ground of their knowledge of mine.

- (2) No persons shall be trained as a rescue worker unless:-
- (i) He is certified by a qualified medical practitioner after examination in accordance with Schedule IV to be free from any organic disease or weakness and to be fit for undertaking rescue work in a mine.
 - (ii) He is considered by the Superintendent of the Rescue Station and Captain of the Brigade to be suitable for rescue work with breathing apparatus.
 - (iii) The Manager of the mine at which the person is employed certified in writing that he has had two years working experience underground in a mine for the purpose of rescue work; and
 - (iv) He is the holder of certificate of proficiency in first aid from an organization approved by the Chief Inspector.

46. Medical Examination of Rescue Workers.- Every worker so long as he continues to practice shall be re-examined every 12 months by a qualified medical practitioner in accordance with Schedule IV and no person shall continue to practice unless he is certified to be fit.

47. Instruction and Practice.- (1) Every person selected for training in rescue shall undergo the course of instructions and practices set out in Part-I of Schedule-V until he has been certified as efficient by the Superintendent.

(2) Rescue workers who have been so certified shall undergo practice and rescue instructions as set out in Part-II of Schedule-V.

(3) All practices required by Schedule-V shall be of atleast two hours duration except on occasions; when in the opinion of the Instructor it is desirable in the interest of safety to curtail the practice. At some of the practices the breathing apparatus shall be used continuously for two hours.

(4) A record shall be kept at every rescue station of all persons practicing underground and receiving instructions in rescue work at the station. This record shall contain such particulars as the Chief Inspector may specify from time to time including the date and character of each practice and the conditions of each man after the practice and if anything abnormal is observed in his condition whether it is due to a defect of the apparatus or to the man himself.

48. Code of Signals in Training.- The code of signals used in training shall be that set out in Schedule VI.

CHAPTER VI CONDUCT OF RESCUE WORK

49. Duties of manager or Principal official present at surface in emergencies.- On receiving information of any emergency likely to require the service to rescue corps or brigade the manager or in his absence the principal official present at the surface shall immediately:-

- (a) On telephone inform the responsible officer on duty at the Rescue Station of the occurrence state whether assistance will be needed from rescue brigades other than the permanent rescue corps or the brigade attached to the mine.
- (b) Summon the trained men attached to the mine;
- (c) Summon medical assistance;

- (d) Inform the Chief Inspector and Inspector;
- (e) If necessary communicate with the Police Station concerned and the Deputy Commissioner.

Provided that if the mine is not in telephone communication with the Rescue Station a message shall be sent by a reliable person to the nearest telephone for immediate communication to the Rescue Station, to the Chief Inspector and Inspector.

50. Entry into mines for rescue operations.- (1) No person shall be allowed to enter a mine or part thereof which is unsafe for the purpose of engaging in rescue operations unless authorised by the manager or in his absence by the principal official of the mine present at the surface. Only men trained in the use of breathing apparatus shall be permitted to enter the mine for the purpose of using such apparatus.

(2) During the course of such operations a person or persons shall be stationed at the entrance of the mine and required to keep a written record of all persons entering and leaving the mine.

(3) Every corps of brigade engaged in work with breathing apparatus in a mine shall be under a leader appointed by the Superintendent of a Rescue Station.

(4) The leader shall not engage in manual work. He shall give his attention solely to directing the brigade or corps and to maintain its safety. He shall examine the roof and support during the journey in and if there is any likelihood of a fall shall not proceed until the brigade or corps has made the place secured.

51. Members Employed.- The number of persons in any corps of brigade using breathing apparatus in a mine shall wear an apparatus with an extension of the supply of oxygen to another person in case of necessity.

52. Supply of Oxygen.- If the type of apparatus used permits, atleast one person in every corps or brigade shall wear an apparatus with an extension of the supply of oxygen to another person in case of necessity.

53. Instructions to corps or brigade regarding rescue operations.- (1) Prior to sending a corps or brigade underground clear instructions shall be given by the principal official of the mine for the time being on the surface or by a responsible person deputed by the agent or manager to leader of the corps or brigade as to where it shall go and what it shall attempt.

(2) If the Superintendent of the Rescue Station serving the mine is present the manager or the principal official incharge of the mine shall consult him before issuing such instruction.

(3) Unless the leader is thoroughly familiar with the roadways in question the route to be followed shall be marked on a tracing which the leader shall take with him into the mine.

(4) The leader shall not permit the corps or brigade to go underground until he has received such instructions and if necessary such tracing.

(5) The leader shall not deviate from the instructions received by him except when such deviation is necessary for the purpose of saving human life.

(6) Portable telephone shall be used for communication instructions from outside mines station to the underground.

54. Fresh air bases.- (1) As soon as possible a base or bases shall be established in fresh air as near to the irrespirable zone or zones as safety permits. Each such base shall if possible be connected to the surface by telephone if the base is underground or if the base is on the surface to the shaft bottom.

(2) Except in cases where the delay involved may result in danger to life no brigade or corps shall proceed beyond any place where a base is to be established until there has been provided first aid at such base.

(3) Whenever men are already at work beyond the base there shall be stationed at the base, as soon as possible 2 men of whom atleast one understands rescue appliances and first aid and a spare brigade with rescue apparatus and equipment ready.

55. Supply of gas masks and arrangements at surface.- If a manager considers it necessary for the purpose of safety the persons engaged in dealing with the fire shall be equipped with gas masks and a rescue brigade equipped with apparatus shall be maintained on the surface.

56. Test of Apparatus.- Before proceeding underground the leader shall test of witness the test of all rescue apparatus of the brigade. He shall check equipment of his party and immediately before entering irrespirable air shall make sure that all apparatus are working properly.

Provided that if the leader and the manager of the mine considers that in order to save life the brigade should proceeded at once into the mine this test may be dispensed with if the apparatus previously been tested at a rescue station.

57. Duties of leader underground.- (1) If the atmosphere is clear the leader shall when passing the junction of two or more roads, clearly indicate the route by means of arrow marks in chalk. If the atmosphere is obscure the leader shall see that a life is laid in from fresh air and shall not allow any member of the brigade to move out of reach of that line or if that course is impracticable he shall not proceed until every road breaching from the route is fenced across the opening.

²[(2) * * * * *]

(3) The leader shall keep the team together.

(4) When using rescue apparatus the leader shall read the pressure of the compressed oxygen every 30 minutes or there about and commence the return journey in ample time. If any member of the corps of brigade is in distress he shall immediately return to the fresh air base with the whole brigade.

(5) The leader shall not permit any corps or brigade using breathing apparatus in a mine to remain at work for longer than 1½ hour at any one time.

58. Duties of members of rescue brigades.- Every member of a rescue corps or brigade engaged in work with breathing apparatus in a mine shall obey the orders of the leader of the team.

59. Travelling with rescue apparatus.- While travelling with rescue apparatus each member of the brigade shall keep the pace given to him when numbering off, if the pace is too quick or if distress is felt the member shall at once call attention to the fact.

60. Restriction of second spell of work.- No person shall commence a second or subsequent spell of work in noxious air without being examined and passed by a qualified medical practitioner if present or by the Rescue Station Superintendent or other competent person if a qualified medical practitioner is not present.

61. Code of signals.- Members of recue corps or brigade shall generally use the signals prescribed in Schedule VI in communicating to one another.

² Either sub-section (2) is missing or it is not missing but subsequent sub-section numbers could be incorrect in the original Punjab Gazette, Extr., Feb. 15, 1990, p. 253-276.

SCHEDULE I
(See Rule 37(1))
APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT
MINIMUM TO BE KEPT AT EACH RESCUE STATION

- (i) Twenty four complete sets of breathing apparatus with means of supplying sufficient oxygen or liquid air to enable such apparatus to be constantly in use for two hours of its charging.
If the type of apparatus so permits one set of apparatus in every four shall be provided with an attachment for supplying oxygen or air to any person found overcome by noxious gases in a mine.
- (ii) For smoke helmets or other apparatus serving the same purpose with not less than 120 feet of tubing for each.
- (iii) Twenty electric safety lamps or electric torches of a type approved by the Chief Inspector and 100 flame safety lamps so approved.
- (iv) Four reviving apparatus with adequate number of spare parts not of the forced breathing type and approved by the Chief Inspector.
- (v) Thirty CO gas masks of a type approved by the Chief Inspector with wrefills for each.
- (vi) A first aid box or boxes.
- (vii) Fresh drinking water.
- (viii) Cages of small birds to test carbon monoxide.
- (ix) A motor ambulance or car of adequate capacity in constant readiness.
- (x) Two portable signaling devices.
- (xi) A gas testing chamber or some similar apparatus giving facilities to test inflammable gas.
- (xii) Complete apparatus for gas analysis of samples obtained from the mines.
- (xiii) Complete apparatus and equipment for determining the percentage of combustible material in coal dust samples obtained from the mines.
- (xiv) Six portable fire extinguishers.
- (xv) Oxygen Cylinder.
- (xvi) Booster Electric Hand Pump.
- (xvii) Co-Cartridges.
- (xviii) Portable telephone.

SCHEDULE II
(See Rule 37(4))
BREATHING APPARATUS ADJUSTMENT AND TEST

1. In every breathing apparatus which is arranged so as to give a uniform oxygen delivery the reducing valve shall be so adjusted as to supply but less than 1.25 liters of Oxygen per minutes.
2. Every breathing apparatus shall be thoroughly tested at least once a month in the following manner and the results of the test giving such particulars as the Chief Inspector may specify in writing in this behalf shall be recorded.
 - (i) The apparatus shall be carefully examined in respect of its general condition and particulars attention shall be given to any delicate and perishable parts.
 - (ii) The apparatus shall be tested for leakage by its complete immersion in water. For the purpose of this test the apparatus shall be fully disinfected and if it is a compressed oxygen apparatus supply shall be turned on. The apparatus immersed in water shall be well shaken and closely examined in every part for leakage by the Superintendent or one of the Instructors of the Rescue Station or by the Captain of the rescue brigade. If any leakage is observed the apparatus shall be deemed unsafe for use.

Provided that this test may be dispensed with in respect of the pack of a liquid air apparatus in so far as it may be damaged by immersion.

- (iii) The pressure at which any automatic relief valve discharge shall be measured.
- 3. The following additional tests shall be applied to compressed oxygen apparatus.
 - (i) The pressure in the oxygen cylinder shall be measured.
 - (ii) The rate of delivery of oxygen shall be measured by a flow meter and if that rate is capable of being adjusted by the wearer of the apparatus it shall be measured over the whole or adjustment.
- 4. Except for practice in fresh air no breathing apparatus shall be used underground unless immediately before use it has been tested and found safe in the manner prescribed by paragraph (ii) of clause 2 of this schedule.

Provided that as a matter of urgency to save life this test may be omitted and a test for leakage by month solution applied instead.

- 5. Oxygen in every cylinder supplied for use in connection with breathing apparatus shall be analyzed before being used in a breathing apparatus and no oxygen which is found to contain more than two percent of impurities shall be used. The result of every analysis giving such particulars as the Chief Inspector may require shall be recorded.
- 6. Flow meters shall be tested for accuracy at least once in every six months and the results of every test giving such particulars as the Chief Inspector may require shall be recorded.
- 7. Where by this Schedule any particulars are required to be recorded they shall be recorded forthwith in a book to be kept at the station or mine as the case may be.

SCHEDULE III
(See Rule 44)
CODE OF SIGNS

| | |
|---|--|
| BRICKS, STONE, OR CONCRETE VENTILATION STOPPING | |
| FIRES DAMS OR SEALS | |
| WATER DAMS | |
| DOORS | |
| REGULATORS | |
| AIR CROSSING | |
| TELEPHONES | |
| UNDERGROUND AMBULANCE STATION IN RED | |
| DIRECTION OR AIR CURRENT | |

SCHEDULE IV
(See Rule 46)
MEDICAL EXAMINATION

The medical practitioner shall make a thorough examination of each person to be appointed trainee or kept in training and shall devote particular attention to the following amongst other.

- I The person must be free from:
 - (i) Any tendency to fainting or vertigo.
 - (ii) Any chronic obstruction in the air passage.
 - (ii) Dyspnoea in high exertion.
 - (iv) Any amount of myopia or any other serious optical defect of disease.
 - (v) Deafness.
- II. The person must be of good physical development and mental alertness and capable of undergoing hard physical exertion for not less than 15 minutes without being unduly distressed or fatigued.

SCHEDULE V
(See Rule 47(1))
PART - I

PRELIMINARY COURSE.

The course of instructions and practices shall be the following:-

A. Instruction in:

- (i) the general methods of dealing with underground fires and the recovery of mines fires and explosions.
- (ii) the construction use repair maintenance and testing of the type or types of treating apparatus and of smoke helmets or other apparatus serving the same purpose.
- (iii) the use of methods and apparatus for reviving men.
- (iv) the properties and detection of the noxious and inflammable gases which may be found in mines.
- (v) the taking of gas samples in irrespectable atmosphere.
- (vi) the reading of mine plans.
- (vii) the requirements contained in chapter VI and Schedule VI to these rules.

B. Practices.

No less than 12 practices for each men with breathing apparatus and in addition not less than two for each men with smoke helmets or other apparatus serving the same purpose in each case under conditions devised to resemble these likely to be encountered in underground operations requiring the use of such apparatus.

- (a) The practices shall be carried out as follows:
 - (i) For permanent Rescue Corps-By atleast five members jointly.
 - (ii) For men from mines not from the Rescue Corps. Not more than eight nor less than five men shall take part in any practice. If five men from the mine do not attend on any occasion the number may be made up by members of the permanent Rescue Corps. So far as practicable the same five men shall practice together as one brigade.
- (b) The practices with breathing apparatus shall take place in ordinary air and shall progress gradually until practices can be carried out in a hot and irrespirable atmosphere.
- (c) The practice with breathing apparatus shall comprise of the following operations:
 - (i) repeatedly raising and lowering of weight of 56 lbs. to be and from a height of six feet by means of a rope and pulley;
 - (ii) walking continuously at a fair pace for half an hour;
 - (iii) building and removing temporary stopping of stones, brick, sand bags, brattice cloth or other materials and carrying the materials required for such operations over a distance of atleast ten years yards.
 - (iv) removing debris in confined spaces as representing the clearing of a fall of roof;
 - (v) setting timer or other roof supports;
 - (vi) carrying, pouching or pulling on a stretcher alive person or dummy body weighing 150 lbs. Along the length of the gallery;
 - (vii) the rapid establishment of communication.

SCHEDULE V
(See Rule 47(2))
PART - II

PRACTICES AND INSTRUCTION AFTER BECOMING EFFICIENT

A - Practices

Permanent Rescue Corps.

In addition to regular practice at the Rescue Station practices with breathing apparatus underground in a mine at least once in each quarter and atleast six times in each year. Members who are not employed regularly underground in mines shall have six further practices underground in mines in each year making twelve practices in all.

Men from mines to act with Permanent Rescue Corps.

Practices with breathing apparatus atleast twice in each quarter and atleast six times in each year of which atleast two shall take place in mines and the remaining in a hot and irrespirable atmosphere.

B - Revision of all subjects included in Part-I.

SCHEDULE VI
(See Rule 48 and 61 CODE OF SIGNALS)

| Electric Signalling | Signals | Signalling between members of a brigade | Signals |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|------------------|
| “Distress or” Help wanted. | One Ring | “Distress” or Help (if no answer is given to a call X “Distress is to be understood”). | One hoot wanted. |
| “Not understood” or “Repeat”. | Two Rings | Halt | Two hoots. |
| “No” | Three Rings | Retire | Three hoots. |
| “yes” or “all rights” or “All well”. | Four Rings | Advance | Four hoots |
| To “Ring up” to “Ring Off”. | Five Rings | to call attention | Five hoots |

FORM ‘R-I’
[(Rule 26 (2)(a)]

_____ (Mines)

_____ (Address)

Whereas I desire to satisfy that the return in Form ‘D’ filed by you for the month of _____ 19 __, is correct and complete.

You are hereby directed to appear in person or through a duly authorised representative before _____ on _____ date _____ at _____ and to produce on _____ that time the accounts and documents specified below together with any objection which you may wish to prefer and to produce any evidence you may wish to adduce in support thereof.

In the event of you failure to comply with this notice, I shall proceed to assess the duty to the best of my judgement under Rule 26 of the Rescue Rules 1988 without further reference to you.

Seal of the Chief Inspector of Mines

Chief Inspector of Mines

No.....

Date.....

Place.....

Particular of accounts and documents required-

- Books of accounts for the months(s) in question in general and records of production and despatches together with records of bills in particulars.

2. Complete record of road/rail permits issued by any authority during the period in respect of this Mineral.
3. Any other subsidiary record showing the production and despatches by rail/river made during the month(s).

FORM 'R-2'
[Rule 26 (3)]

To,

_____ (Mines)

Whereas you have not furnished a return in Form 'D' in respect of the month(s) 19 , by the prescribed date(s).

You are, requested to submit a return within from the date of issue of this notice, for the month(s) of 19 , in Form 'D' of the Rescue Rules, 1988.

In the event of your failure to comply with this notice I shall proceed to assess the duty to the best of my judgement under rule 26 of the Rescue Rules, 1988 and you will also further be liable to prosecution under rule 24 of the said rules.

Seal of the Chief Inspector of Mines

Chief Inspector of Mines, Punjab

No.....
Date.....
Place.....

FORM 'R-3'
[Rule 26 (4)]

To,

_____ (Mines)
_____ (Address)

Whereas it appears that you have despatched Minerals by road/river/rail during the month(s) of 19 , but have failed to furnished return in Form 'D' under rule 21 of the Rescue Rules, 1988.

You are, therefore, directed to appear in person or through a representative before (person) at on (date) at (time) and to produce or cause to be produced at that times the accounts and documents specified and lodged at that time any objection which you may wish to do in support thereof.

In the event of your failure to comply with this notice I shall proceed to assess to the best of my judgement under rule 26 (4) of the Rescue Rules, 1988 and you will also be liable to a prosecution under rule 24.

Seal of the Chief Inspector of Mines

Chief Inspector of Mines

No.....
Date.....
Place.....

Particular of accounts and documents required:-

- (1) Books of accounts for the month (s) in question in general and record of production and despatches together with records of bills in particulars.

- (2) Complete record of road/rail permits issued by any authority during the period in question in respect of this Mineral.
- (3) Any other subsidiary record showing the production and despatches by river/rail made during the month(s).

FORM 'D'
 [Rule 21]

MAINTENANCE OF REGISTER OF DESPATCHES AND SUBMISSION OF RETURNS

Name of the owner of the mine _____

Full address _____

Month of production and dispatch _____ year _____

Number of workers employed during the month _____

| S. No. | Date of Despatch | Name & address of Consignee | Destination | Quantity Despatched | Calculation of Duty | Particulars of deposit into treasury |
|--------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 |

Paid into _____ (Treasury name)

On _____ (date with month and year) as per copy of Treasury Challan No. _____
 ENCLOSED herewith.

Total _____

Cess on _____ tons at Rs. _____

- B. 1. Opening stock on the 1st day of the month to which the return pertains _____ tons.
2. Production of Minerals during the month of _____ tons.
3. Total _____ tons.
4. Despatches during the of month _____ tons.
- (i) By rail _____ tons.
- (ii) By road _____ tons.
5. Total _____ tons.
6. Closing stock on the last day of the month to which the return pertains _____ tons.

Certified that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and are based on the record maintained in my mines.

No _____ date _____ and place _____

Signature _____
 (Owner)

FORM 'E'
[Rule 26 (1)]

To,

_____ (Mines)

_____ (Address)

With reference to the return in Form 'D' of maintenance of Register of despatches submission of returns submitted by you in respect of the month(s) of _____ 19____, you are hereby informed that the final assessment of cess on _____ tons amounting to Rs. _____ (Rupees _____ only) paid by you as per _____ Treasury Challan No. _____ dated _____ has been confirmed.

Seal of the Chief Inspector of Mines

Chief Inspector of Mines, Punjab

No.....

Date.....

Place.....