

I. DIVISION OF MINES GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION OF REGULATORY STANDARDS MANUAL	
A. COAL MINE SAFETY ACT	B. CHAPTER 14.3
C. ARTICLE 11	D. ELECTRICITY
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Section 45.1-161.193.

Electric equipment.

45.1-161.193.C. of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia mandates that: electric equipment shall not be taken into or operated in any place where a methane level of one percent or more is detected.

If the methane monitoring system provided for the longwall face displays a low warning signal of one percent (1.0 %) methane or more on the longwall face, action in response to the methane monitoring system warning signal will be required to be initiated if the longwall face power remains energized. Article 14. §45.1-161.209.F. (vi) of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia is interpreted as applicable with respect to the methane conditions described above. Examination for gas shall be made (vi) at such other times as may be necessary or designated by the operator or mine inspector for adequate safety.

If the longwall face power is to remain energized, with the longwall face methane monitoring system displaying one percent (1.0 %) or greater methane content on the longwall face, then an authorized person certified to make gas test using an approved detecting device, properly maintained and calibrated, shall examine the longwall face entire air course for methane content. If methane content of one percent (1.0%) or greater is detected at any location across the longwall face, by the authorized person, then the longwall face power shall be de-energized.

45.1-161.222.A and B. of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia addresses the actions to be taken when one percent (1.0 %) or greater methane is present in a working place or intake air course. Certified or qualified persons trained in the use of an approved detecting device, which is properly maintained and calibrated, shall make tests for methane under this section.

45.1-161.222.B. of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia states that when one percent or more methane is present in a working place or an intake air course, including an air course in which a belt conveyor is located, or in an area where mining equipment is being installed or removed, work shall cease and electrical power shall be de-energized in the affected working place at the equipment with the exception of the intrinsically safe atmospheric monitoring systems (AMS). Changes or adjustments shall be made to the ventilation system to reduce the concentration to below one percent. Only work to reduce the concentration of methane below one percent shall be permitted. This does not apply to other faces in the entry or slope in which work can be safely continued.