

SOURCES OF HELP FOR THE SAFETY MAN

Bureau's first director), the National Safety Competition, and the biennial National First-Aid and Mine Rescue Contests.

Testing of Equipment. Research, frequently conducted in cooperation with industry, also has provided the basis for many of the rigorous tests developed and given by the bureau to equipment and accessories designed for use in mining and related fields. Bureau standards are used in evaluating the permissibility for underground use of items ranging from respiratory protective devices to continuous-mining machines and diesel-powered mining equipment. Bureau testing is done at the request of equipment manufacturers, who pay standard fees for the service and are permitted to display the bureau seal of approval on models demonstrated to be safe for use in mines.

Coal Mine Inspection. Since 1941, the Bureau has been charged with responsibility for periodic inspection of the more than 9,000 coal mines operating in the United States. Until 1952, compliance with the recommendations of Bureau inspectors was entirely voluntary, but in that year enactment of the Federal Coal Mine Safety Act authorized and directed bureau enforcement of certain mandatory provisions designed to help guard against major disasters in coal mines employing more than 14 men underground. The bureau has enforcement powers but prefers that improvements in safety be achieved through voluntary compliance with the recommendations of inspectors, as this is considered more substantial and more lasting.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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The U S Department of Labor, set up to promote the welfare of the wage earner, has jurisdiction over a number of agencies that produce vital safety information. Some of the department's programs of interest to the safety man are described in the following paragraphs.

The BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS of the Department of Labor promotes industrial safety by giving technical help to state labor officials on accident prevention programs, drafting safety and health codes, and providing training courses for state safety inspectors and Federal employees with supervisory responsibility for safety. The bureau

administers the safety and health provisions covered by Section 41 of the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. It maintains 5 regional offices and 17 field offices in various cities throughout the country. The bureau is the secretariat to the Federal Safety Council and it works with other government agencies, the states, industry, and labor on legislation and administrative practices involving labor. The work with the states also covers wages and hours of work, industrial inspection, child labor, and other factors that affect the worker.

Typical publications available through this agency are:

Safety in Industry Bulletins, (a series of bulletins covering various aspects of safety)

Principles and Techniques of Mechanical Guarding

Occupational Health Hazards—Their Evaluation and Control

Safety and Health Regulations for Longshoring

Safety and Health Regulations for Ship Repairing

A listing of all safety publications is available.

The BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS collects facts on a wide variety of subjects relating to the labor force and publishes them in general bulletins and in the *Monthly Labor Review*. The Review furnishes general information on labor relations and living conditions in the United States and abroad.

Regular statistical activities of the BLS cover the following broad subject areas:

Work injuries and accidents

Manpower and employment, including occupational outlook

Productivity and technological developments

Prices and living conditions

Wages and industrial relations

Foreign labor

The bureau is authorized to make statistical studies on request of private persons or groups who in turn pay the costs.

The following publications are typical of the work-injury information available:

Work Injuries in the U S, issued annually

Work-Injury Rates by Industry, issued annually

Work Injury Frequency Rates for Manufacturing Industries, issued quarterly