

**Comments of the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied
Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW)
on the
Mine Safety and Health Administration's Proposed Revision
on
Hazardous Communication
Docket Number: MSHA-2025-0081
Regulation Identification Number: 1219-AC12
July 31, 2025**

On behalf of the United Steelworkers (USW), we respectfully submit this comment in opposition to MSHA's proposed rule amending 30 CFR Part 56 by removing duplicative requirements for aerial tramways.

Why USW Opposes This Change:

A competent person must already conduct thorough on-the-ground inspections of working areas to identify hazards before work begins. Adding responsibility for inspecting aerial tramways—complex systems that often span large distances and require specialized access—places an unreasonable burden on one individual. In many mining operations, these locations are not physically reachable within the same time frame necessary for a proper pre-shift examination. Attempting to cover both areas could result in rushed and incomplete inspections, increasing the risk of missed hazards, injuries, and worse yet, fatalities. The proposed requirement that a single competent person inspect both the mine site and aerial tramways during shift examinations is unrealistic and could compromise miners' safety.

MSHA should recognize that competent persons cannot be in two places at once and that safe, thorough examinations of both ground-level mine workings and aerial tramways require either multiple qualified inspectors or a more flexible approach. The current proposal will lead to noncompliance, injuries, and fatalities, undermining the core purpose of Part 56 examinations.

For these reasons, we strongly urge MSHA to revise the proposed rule to ensure realistic, enforceable, and effective examination requirements that do not compromise miners' protections.

Respectfully submitted,

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Health, Safety, and Environment Department