

NFPA 123

Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Underground Bituminous Coal Mines

1999 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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Standard for

Fire Prevention and Control in Underground Bituminous Coal Mines

1999 Edition

This edition of NFPA 123, *Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Underground Bituminous Coal Mines*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Mining Facilities and acted on by the National Fire Protection Association, Inc., at its Fall Meeting held November 16–18, 1998, in Atlanta, GA. It was issued by the Standards Council on January 15, 1999, with an effective date of February 4, 1999, and supersedes all previous editions.

Changes other than editorial are indicated by a vertical rule in the margin of the pages on which they appear. These lines are included as an aid to the user in identifying changes from the previous edition.

This edition of NFPA 123 was approved as an American National Standard on February 4, 1999.

Origin and Development of NFPA 123

In 1978 the Technical Committee on Mining Facilities, through its membership and current Mine Safety and Health Administration regulations, identified the need for guidance in fire prevention and control in underground coal mines. The first edition of NFPA 123 was developed through several subcommittee and committee meetings and was officially released as the 1987 edition.

A variety of important changes were included in the 1990 edition of NFPA 123. Most important among these were the addition of new criteria that specifically addressed protective signaling systems and automatic sprinkler systems used in underground bituminous coal mines. This material was developed in conjunction with the NFPA Technical Committees responsible for these fire protection systems, in accordance with the NFPA Standards Council policy on jurisdictional scope issues.

The 1995 edition incorporated the requirements that were previously included in NFPA 124, *Standard for Fire Protection of Diesel Fuel and Diesel Equipment in Underground Mines*, which was withdrawn. Further changes included editorial corrections and revisions that provided consistency with other NFPA mining related standards.

The 1999 edition clarifies the proper type of fire extinguishers to be used. Also, the references to fixed fire extinguishing systems have been changed to fixed fire protection systems because not all systems extinguish the fire. A reference to NFPA 25, *Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems*, has also been added.