Wisconsin Administrative Code

Rules of
INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

EXPLOSIVES

Cite the rules in this Code as
(for example)
Wis. Adm. Code section Ind 5.01

January 1956

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION
State Office Building, Madison 2, Wisconsin
Chapter 5

GENERAL ORDERS ON EXPLOSIVES

INTRODUCTION

This issue of the General Orders on Explosives replaces regulations dealing with the storage, transportation, and use of explosives which became effective on March 27, 1933, and which combined for the first time all of the Industrial Commission's orders on these subjects. Each of the three sections of these regulations had been promulgated and revised by different code committees at various times but were printed in one issue for convenience. When it became apparent that there was need for an almost complete revision, a new advisory committee was nominated by various interests and appointed early in 1962 to make recommendations for such action. This committee was composed of the following members:

Prof. E. R. Shorb, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Chairman. Phillip S. Banaszak, Wisconsin Highway Commissioners Association, Jefferson.
C. M. Fellman, Montreal Mining Company, Montreal.
B. G. Henderson, Wisconsin State Highway Commission, Madison.
Ted Kurz, Wisconsin State Industrial Union Council, Milwaukee.
M. A. Nice, Institute of Makers of Explosives, Wilmington, Delaware.
H. T. Ritter, Institute of Makers of Explosives, Wilmington, Delaware.
W. H. Ryan, Wisconsin Road Builders Association, Janesville.
Prof. W. O. Rowlands, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
John Zancanaro, Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, Milwaukee.
A. W. Usadel, Wisconsin Industrial Commission, Madison; Secretary.

F. D. Bickel represented the Institute of Makers of Explosives for Mr. Nice at the advisory committee meetings.

The advisory committee met in Madison on March 25 and 26, April 29, and December 4, 1962. The proposed orders were considered at public hearings held by the Industrial Commission in Eau Claire, Superior, Hurley, Wausau, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Platteville and Madison.

Comments and suggestions originating from the hearings were considered at the last committee meeting and the revised code was adopted by the Industrial Commission on July 24, 1963, published in the official state paper on August 27, 1963, and became effective September 26, 1963. The old orders were repealed on the latter date.

Ind. 5.01 Scope. These orders shall apply to the storage, handling and transportation of explosives, but shall not apply to the interstate transportation of explosives. This code shall not apply to the military or naval forces of the United States, or the militia of any state thereof, nor to the police or fire department of any city provided they are acting within their official capacity and in the proper performance of their duties.

Ind. 5.02 Construction of orders. Failure on part of superintendents, foremen, bosses, and other persons having control of any place of employment, or of any employee and of any operations, to carry out any duty prescribed in these orders is violation of such order by the employer.

Ind. 5.03 Definitions. (1) The term “superintendent” when used in these orders shall mean the person having a general supervision of the work.

(2) The term “foreman” when used in these orders shall mean a person who at any one time is charged with the immediate direction of the work.

(3) For the purpose of these orders, an explosive is defined as any chemical compound, mixture, or device, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion, i.e., with substantially instantaneous release of both gas and heat, unless such compound, mixture or device is otherwise classified by the Industrial Commission of Wisconsin.

(4) The term “magazine” means any building or other structure of approved construction used for the storage of explosives.
use by authorized persons. Such magazine shall be plainly marked EXPLOSIVES, and located within a building, on the floor nearest the ground level, and within 10 feet from an outside entrance.

(3) Not more than a total quantity of 50 pounds of gunpowder and black powder may be kept or stored in any building or on any premises within the corporate limits of any city or village. Such powder shall be kept in closed metal canisters placed in a separate magazine constructed and located as described in Section Ind 5.04 (2).

(4) Not more than 7,000 detonators may be kept or stored on any premises within the corporate limits of any city or village. In no case shall explosives and detonators be kept or stored in the same magazine.

(5) Detonators shall be kept or stored in a similar, but separate magazine, similarly placed, in accordance with the specifications provided for in Section Ind 5.04 (2).

(6) Anyone storing explosives or detonators within the corporate limits of any city or village shall notify the chief of the fire department of the place, extent and manner of such storage.

(7) Blasting operations within a city or village may store up to a maximum of 24 hours' explosive requirements, but where such 24 hours requirements exceed 50 pounds, permission shall be obtained in advance from the chief of the fire department and the explosives shall be stored in a magazine as described in Section Ind 5.08.

**Ind 5.05 Storage outside corporate limits of cities and villages.** All explosives in excess of the supply authorized to be stored in cities and villages shall be kept or stored in specially constructed magazines located outside the corporate limits of cities and villages according to the Quantity and Distance Table. This order shall not apply where the requirements of this table can be met within such corporate limits.

**Ind 5.06 Location of magazines.** (1) All magazines in which explosives are kept or stored shall be located at a distance from buildings, railroads and highways in conformity with the following Quantity and Distance Table, unless otherwise authorized by the industrial commission.

(2) The Quantity and Distance Table governing the keeping and storage of explosives is as follows:

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**Ind 5.04 Storage of explosives within cities and villages.** (1) No dynamite of more than 60% rated strength shall be kept or stored for sale in any building, storeroom, wareroom, or in or on any premises within the corporate limits of any city or village. Any other storage permitted under this order shall be approved by the chief of the fire department.

(2) Not more than a total quantity of 50 pounds of dynamite for sale or use shall be kept or stored in or on any premises within the corporate limits of any city or village. Such 50 pounds or less of such dynamite shall be kept and stored in a magazine made of fire-resistant materials or of wood covered with sheet iron and mounted on wheels or skids, and kept locked except when opened necessarily for...
## QUANTITY AND DISTANCE TABLE

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(a) **Maximum allowed.** No quantity in excess of 300,000 pounds, or in the case of blasting caps, no number in excess of 20,000,000 caps shall be kept or stored in any magazine in this state.

(b) **Blasting caps.** Quantity equivalent to weight. 1,000 caps shall be considered as equivalent to ½ pounds of explosives for computing explosives content of detonators in a magazine.

(3) Magazines in which more than 50 pounds of explosives are kept and stored shall be detached from other structures.

(4) When two or more magazines are located on the same property, each magazine must comply with the minimum distances specified from inhabited buildings, railways, and highways, and in addition they shall be separated from each other by not less than the distances shown for “Separation of Magazines,” except that the quantity of explosives contained in cap magazines shall govern in regard to the spacing of said cap magazines from magazines containing other explosives. If any two or more magazines are separated from each other by less than the specified “Separation of Magazines” distances, then such two or more magazines, as a group, must be considered as one magazine, and the total quantity of explosives stored in such group, must be treated as if stored in a single magazine located on the site of any magazine of the group, and must comply with the minimum distances specified from other magazines, inhabited buildings, railways, and highways.

(5) Whenever a magazine is screened from buildings, railroads or highways, either by natural features of the ground, or by a barricade as described in section Ind 5.03 (7), of such height that any straight line drawn from the top of any side wall of the magazine to any part of the building to be protected will pass through such intervening natural or efficient artificial barricade, and any straight line drawn from the top of any side wall of the magazine, to any point 12 feet above the center of the railroad or highway to be protected, will pass through such intervening barricade, the applicable distances, as prescribed by the Quantity and Distance Table in section Ind 5.06 (1) of this order, may be reduced one-half.

(6) Explosives magazines, except detonator magazines as provided in section Ind 5.07 (4) (5), shall not be located nearer than 200 feet from any operating building of any mine or quarry, or from any mine shaft, tunnel, or slope opening at the surface.

Ind 5.07 **Construction and maintenance of magazines.** (1) Magazines for storing high explosives, except detonators, shall be constructed of brick, poured concrete, concrete block or hollow clay tile (walls not less than 6 inches thick) with openings filled with sand or screenings (less than ¾ inch), or of metal, lined with 4 inches of brick or wood. For magazines built of metal heavier than 14 gauge, the equivalent ratio of metal to the wood lining shall be ½ inch of metal to one inch of wood. Wood frame construction may be used if the construction consists of walls 6 inches apart filled from sill to plate with sand and the structure completely surfaced on the outside with not less than 26 gauge metal or an equivalent fire-resistant material, such as asbestos cement sheathing or shingles.
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(2) The doors shall be constructed of % inch thick boiler plate lined with three layers of % inch hardwood, or if metal is less than % inch thick, lined with four layers of % inch hardwood or equivalent.

(3) A bullet-resistant ceiling consisting of a tray of sand 4 inches thick or equivalent, shall be provided at the level of the plate line if the dynamite can be shot into through the roof of the magazine. A 2 inch space shall be provided between the tray and the walls of the building.

(4) No detonators shall be stored in any magazine containing other explosives. Buildings for storage of detonators and blasting supplies, or black powder magazines, shall be constructed of metal, lined, or of wood construction covered with metal or fire-resisting material. The door shall be fire-resisting and kept locked.

(5) A waterproof box of equivalent construction, or as described in section Ind 5.08, painted red and conspicuously marked EXPLOSIVES shall be considered as complying with this order for storage of not more than 7,000 detonators. Such storage shall be in accordance with section Ind 5.04 (2). For more than 7,000 detonators use the Quantity and Distance Table.

(6) All nails in the interior of the magazines shall be countersunk. Each magazine shall be ventilated and the vent openings shall be screened to prevent sparks of fire passing through them, except that magazines containing only black powder may be constructed without openings for ventilation. Ventilation openings shall be located at the top of the magazines and box of sand or similar, and a 2 inch opening shall be provided between the floor and the wall, except at the door, for complete air circulation. Where magazines do not have a ceiling, the vent opening shall be protected by a deflector.

(7) Magazine doors shall be kept closed and locked except when opened for transacting business.

(8) The ground around the magazines, within 25 feet in all directions, shall be kept free from rubbish, dead grass, shrubbery or other flammable materials.

(9) Signs with the words EXPLOSIVES—KEEP OFF legibly printed in letters approximately 3 inches high, shall be posted at all times on the premises on which the magazines are located. Such signs shall be located so that a bullet fired directly at them will not strike any magazine.

(10) Signs with the words EXPLOSIVES—KEEP OFF legibly printed in letters approximately 3 inches high, shall be posted at all times on the premises on which the magazines are located. Such signs shall be located so that a bullet fired directly at them will not strike any magazine.

(11)Magazines shall be kept clean and dry.

(12) Magazines shall be in charge of a person especially appointed for the purpose, who shall have in his possession the keys of the magazine and shall be responsible for the safe storage of explosives contained therein.

(13) Explosives shall not be handled near open lights, fire, flame, or sparks. Only an electric flashlight or electric lantern shall be used in a magazine if artificial light is needed. Smoking or carrying matches, lighted cigarettes or other flame-producing devices shall not be permitted in a magazine.

(14) Fibre, rubber, or wooden tools shall be used to open explosive cases except that “slitters” may be used to open fibre-boards cases. Cases shall be opened outside the magazine.

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No flammables, except wood wedges and fibre, rubber or wooden mallets, nor any sparking metal tools or implements, shall be kept or stored in any magazine containing explosives.

(15) Explosives shall be stored so that the oldest stock is readily accessible and can be used first.

Note: Complete plans for all types of magazines are available from the U. S. Bureau of Mines, explosives manufacturers, and the Institute of Makers of Explosives.

Ind 5.08 Storage, daily supply. Where explosives in excess of immediate requirements are removed from a magazine and delivered in the vicinity of a blasting operation, they shall be kept in a stout, tight box constructed of nominal 2 inch plank, covered with not less than 26 gauge sheet metal or other fire-resisting material, and equipped with hinged lid, or in a small portable building similarly covered. Not more than 24 hours’ supply of explosives shall at any time be kept or stored therein. If this daily supply exceeds 50 pounds, it shall be located not less than 200 feet from the work in progress and from buildings, railroads, and highways, except by special permission of the chief of the fire department in cities and villages. Except when necessarily opened for use by authorized persons, such box shall be locked. Each such box shall be painted red and be conspicuously marked EXPLOSIVES.

Ind 5.09 Portable magazines. When work is of a temporary nature, the magazine shall be constructed in accordance with specifications in the same manner as for boxes, except that 4 inches instead of 6 inches shall be accepted if the capacity of such magazine is not more than 6,000 pounds. Such magazine shall be subject to all orders applying to permanent magazines, except that ventilation requirements shall be waived.

Ind 5.10 Explosives unfit for use. (1) When it is necessary to destroy dynamite or detonators, the handling and destruction of the explosives shall be deferred until a representative of an explosives manufacturer, of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, or of the Wisconsin industrial commission has been posted. Note: The explosives may be fresh material from containers which have been broken during transport, usable material for which there is no further need on the job, or they may consist of material which has deteriorated which has become unfit for use through some sort of damage. Frequently, deteriorated explosives are much more hazardous than those in good condition, and hence, require special care in handling and disposal.

(2) Empty cases, paper and sawdust from deteriorated explosives, and sweepings may be explosive, and shall be destroyed separately by burning. Such burning shall be conducted in a safe location where no damage or injury will result in the event of an explosion.

(3) In case magazine floors become stained with nitroglycerin they shall be scrubbed well with a stiff broom, hard brush, or mop, using a solution mixed in the proportion of 1/3 quarts of water, 3 1/2 quarts of denatured alcohol, one quart of acetone, and one pound of sodium sulfide (60% commercial). The liquid shall be used freely to decompose the nitroglycerin thoroughly. If the magazine floor is covered with rubberoid or any material impervious to nitroglycerin, one portion of the floor shall be thoroughly swept with dry sawdust and the
sweepings taken to a safe distance from the magazine and destroyed by the method described in section Ind 5.10 (2).

Ind 5.11 Transportation of explosives. (1) These orders shall apply to the transportation of explosives in the state of Wisconsin in intrastate movements, as they are applicable.

(2) Motor trucks or vehicles when used for transporting explosives, shall be marked or placarded on both sides and the rear with the word EXPLOSIVES in letters not less than 6 inches high, or shall conspicuously display a red flag with the word DANGER printed, stamped, or sewed thereon in white letters at least 6 inches high, mounted above the highest point of the vehicle.

(3) Motor vehicles transporting explosives shall be handled in a safe and careful manner.

(4) Only careful, qualified men who have been selected and regularly designated by the employer shall drive, load, or unload a vehicle transporting explosives.

(5) No person shall be permitted to ride upon, drive, load, or unload a vehicle transporting explosives while smoking or under the influence of liquor.

(6) No sparking metal tools or flammable or corrosive substances shall be carried in the bed or body of vehicles transporting explosives, except that service trucks carrying small quantities of explosives in approved containers are considered as complying with this section.

(7) Only necessary stops shall be made by motor vehicles loaded with explosives. They shall stop at all railroad grade crossings, except urban street railway crossings, and their speed limit shall be 45 miles per hour.

(8) The vehicle used for transporting explosives shall have a tight floor. If there is any exposed sparking metal on the inside of the body, it shall be covered or protected with non-sparking material so that the explosives containers will not come in contact with the exposed sparking metal. Trucks used for the transportation of explosives shall be clean and free from surplus oil and grease, shall have wiring completely insulated, fuel and exhaust lines free from leaks, and all necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent the truck from catching fire. A fire extinguisher equivalent to a one and one-half quart carbon tetrachloride type, a 4 pound dry chemical type, or a 4 pound carbon dioxide type fire extinguisher shall be mounted in an accessible place in the cab of every motor vehicle transporting explosives. (Two extinguishers may be carried instead of one to secure the above required capacity). In open trucks servicing any job with explosives, a tarpaulin shall be used to cover explosives and the sides of the body shall be high enough to prevent cases from falling off.

(9) Detonators may be transported in the same motor vehicle with high explosives only as follows: The detonators shall be packed in authorized I.C.O. specification outside shipping containers, or in prescribed inside I.C.O. packages in an outside box made of one inch lumber lined with padding material not less than ½ inch thick, or a box made of not less than 12 gauge sheet metal lined with plywood or other solid material not less than ½ inch thick so that no metal is exposed. Hinged covers and fastening devices are required on boxes.

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Ind 5.12 Certificates of competency. (1) No person shall be permitted to prepare, carry, explode, or conduct blasting operations, and no employer shall employ any person for such purposes unless such person holds a valid certificate of competency issued by the Industrial Commission after a determination of fitness by examination.

(2) Persons authorized to prepare explosive charges or conduct blasting operations shall comply with all provisions of the general orders on explosives, and shall use every reasonable precaution to insure the safety of the workmen and general public. They shall not delegate the work of preparing explosive charges or conducting blasting operations to a person who does not hold a certificate of competency, except under their direct supervision. A person not holding a certificate of competency may act only as a helper.

(3) The certificate of competency shall be cancelled by the Industrial Commission in cases of violations of safety practices.

Ind 5.13 Detonators and primers. (1) Only a primer shall be used for attaching fuse to blasting caps. The employer shall furnish and keep in accessible places, ready for use, primers in good repair. Capped fuses shall be made up only as required.

(2) No fuses shall be capped with blasting caps in any magazine, but approved benches shall be provided at a safe distance from storage place where all fuses shall be capped. All fuse ends shall be trimmed immediately before capping.

(3) All caps and fuse and electric primers shall be made as recommended by the manufacturer. Primers consisting of less than one cartridge shall be made by inserting the cap in the mouth of one cartridge. They shall be made just prior to loading in boreholes.

Note: The manufacturer's recommendations are found on “case inserts” in every case of explosives.

Ind 5.14 Use of explosives. (1) Explosives shall be handled in a careful manner as described in this section.

(2) There shall be one blaster in charge of blasting in each section of any operation. He shall enforce these orders and directions and personally supervise the fixing of all charges and all other blasting operations and shall use every precaution to insure the safety of the workmen. Equipment and tools shall be kept in a neat and orderly condition. (3) Explosives shall not be distributed or handled during known approach of an electrical storm. If work has been started, it shall be stopped and employees shall go to a safe distance from the blast area until the storm has passed.

(4) Explosives shall be conveyed in original shipping containers, in approved covered wooden boxes or sacks provided for that purpose.

(5) Detonators shall be conveyed separately from other explosives in approved containers provided for that purpose. The container for capped fuses shall be of rigid construction and provided with a hinged cover. If containers are of metal, a lining of felt or similar material, shall be provided.
(6) After loading is completed, all surplus explosives and supplies shall be returned at once to the daily supply magazine as specified in section Ind 5.08, observing the rules used for distribution.

§7 Special orders for use of explosives in tunnels.

(a) Explosives used in tunneling shall be Fume Class I as classified by the Institute of Makers of Explosives and the users shall post evidence in a conspicuous place showing compliance with this order.

(b) Explosives shall not be lowered into any tunnel on the same conveyance with detonators or primers.

(c) While explosives are being taken through air locks, no men other than the lock tender and the carrier shall be permitted in the lock.

(d) Explosives shall not be left or placed near electric wires.

(e) Before explosives or detonators are delivered to a tunnel face, all power current shall be cut off within 50 feet of the face. All illumination shall be by battery lamps or floodlights only.

(f) In a tunnel or shaft no blast hole shall be loaded until a round of holes is completely drilled.

(g) Before loading any blast holes, they shall be checked with a tampering pole or other equivalent device to make sure they are in proper condition and proper size for loading of explosives.

(h) There shall be no smoking, open flames, sparks, or use of matches or lighters within 100 feet of place where explosive charges are being prepared with the exception of carbide lamps where this is the type of illumination used in mines.

(i) All tampering poles and dories shall be constructed of wood or flexible plastic pipe with no exposed metal parts, except that non-sparking metal spikes may be used where necessary to load rough holes and that non-sparking metal connectors may be used for extending the length of tampering poles.

(j) Explosives shall be tamped only by light taps of the tampering rod. Excessive ramming shall be avoided. The primer shall not be tamped.

(k) A blast hole shall not be loaded adjacent to a hole being drilled. In a mine drift or crosscut heading, no blast hole shall be loaded until a round of holes is completely drilled.

(l) All blast holes shall be stemmed to the collar wherever practicable. Otherwise, they shall be stemmed sufficiently to minimize possibility of injury to personnel from flying materials.

(m) Before drilling is commenced on any shift, all remaining holes shall be examined with a wooden stick for unexploded charges or cartridges, and if any are found, same shall be refired before work proceeds.

(n) Blast holes shall not be started in bootlegs or at location of holes previously blasted.

(o) All explosives cases, wooden and fibreboard, and all liners and packing material shall be destroyed by burning twice weekly at a distance not less than 200 feet from magazines, dwellings and other structures. All persons shall retire to a place of safety as soon as the pile is ignited.

Ind 5.15 Firing blasts with cap and fuse. (1) The use of any fuse having a nominal burning rate of less than one foot in 40 seconds is prohibited. Each new supply of safety fuse shall be tested for rate of burning by cutting off three, 3 foot lengths, dividing the burning time of each by three, and averaging the result. Any fuse which has a burning rate varying more than 10% from one foot in 40 seconds shall not be used.

(2) The minimum length of fuse to be used for a single shot shall be 30 inches. When five or more shots are to be lighted by one person, the minimum length shall not be reduced. "Warning" fuses shall be used for each blast. They should be 24 inches long. "Warning" shall be placed so personnel will not be injured by flying fragments.

(3) At least two men shall be present at each location where cap and fuse blasting is done.

(4) Lighting of fuse before placing primer in position in the drill hole is prohibited.

(5) The use of cap and fuse for firing mud cap charges is prohibited unless charges are separated sufficiently to prevent one charge from dislodging other shots in the vicinity.

Ind 5.16 Firing blasts with electricity. (1) Before loading an electrical blast, all portable or temporary electric circuits within 100 feet shall be disconnected.

(2) When blasting is contemplated near high voltage lines and there is danger that the lines will be damaged by flying debris, the power company shall be notified in advance. Precautions shall be taken to prevent blasting lines from being thrown into contact with a power line.

(3) Before stemming holes, the caps shall be tested for circuit with a blasting galvanometer equipped with silver chloride cell. In case a cap wire is broken, a new primer shall be inserted. The log wires shall be kept short-circuited until they are connected into the blast.

(4) All circuits shall be tested with a blasting galvanometer before firing.

(5) Blasts connected in series or parallel series may be fired by power lines or blasting machines as recommended by the manufacturer. Blasts connected in parallel shall be fired only with a power line or a special blasting machine designed for use with an adequate supply of delivered current. Blasting machines shall be tested periodically to insure their ability to develop their rated capacity. If defective, they shall not be used.

(6) Only well insulated copper leading wire, 14 gauge or larger, and approved by the industrial commission shall be used. When firing with a blasting machine the leading wires shall be kept disconnected and short-circuited, except when firing the blast.

(7) (a) When firing with a power circuit, a firing switch shall always be used. This switch shall be locked in the "open" or "off" position at all times except when firing a blast. It shall be so designed that the firing lines are short-circuited when the switch is in the "off" position.

(b) The box shall be kept locked except when blasting and no person shall have access to it except the blaster.

(c) On the power side of the switch, a 5 foot lightning gap shall be provided which shall be closed by a "jumper" only at the time of firing.
(d) No electric firing shall be done with a power line current of less than 110 volts nor more than 550 volts. Where the entire firing circuit shall be insulated and no ground shall be permitted. All parts of the blasting circuit shall be protected from accidental contact with power lines, pipe lines, or other sources of extraneous current.

(9) Before adopting any system of electrical firing the blaster shall conduct a thorough survey for extraneous currents and if 0.15 volts or more is detected, such extraneous currents shall be eliminated before any holes are loaded.

(10) Periodic check surveys shall be made for extraneous currents. When electric haulage is used, all rail bonds shall be properly maintained and all rails and pipe lines shall be cross-bonded and grounded.

(11) In shaft, tunnel, or caisson blasting, only electrical firing shall be used except as modified in section Ind 5.16 (12) and all electrical equipment shall be grounded with a resistance to ground of not more than one ohm.

(12) (a) Electric blasting caps shall not be stored or transported in the vicinity of an operating radio transmitter unless they are in their original package or sealed as specified by the manufacturer. If not in their original package, they shall be kept in a special metal-covered container as described in section Ind 5.11 (9).

(b) Electric blasting caps shall not be used or handled in the vicinity of a known operating radio transmitter within the following distances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power (Watts)</th>
<th>Distance (Feet)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5—25</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>25—50</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>50—100</td>
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<td>10,000—25,000</td>
<td>3,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>25,000—50,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,000—100,000</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) All known mobile transmitters, or those under control of operators of plant, within blasting area shall be shut off. If for any reason, a mobile or permanent transmitter can not be shut off, the following test shall be made to determine if a hazard exists. A #47 radio pilot lamp shall be inserted into the blasting circuit in place of the electric detonator. If any glow is observed in the lamp, the fire shall be primed with cap and fuse or detonating fuse.

Ind 5.17 Firing blasts—general. (1) SURFACE BLASTING OUT OF DOORS. Before any blast shall be fired, a prearranged, audible warning signal shall be sounded and all personnel required to retire to a shelter house designed for the purpose or equivalent, but in no case shall the persons be less than 500 feet away when the blast is fired.

(b) If shelters are not available, persons shall retire to a safe distance. In no case shall this distance be less than 500 feet. In any case, the safe distance shall be posted or measured.

(c) All access roads or travelways shall be guarded before the warning signal is given and all personnel shall remain in place of safety until "all clear" signal has been authorized by the blaster in charge. Where highways or buildings are located within the danger zone, employees shall be sent in each direction to warn the public when shots are to be fired. The persons giving the warning shall proceed not less than 500 feet from the blast and warning shall be accomplished by waving a red flag. A sign with the words STOP—BLASTING printed in letters approximately 3 inches high, shall be used in addition to the flag.

(d) STOP—BLASTING signs and flags shall be used only for duration of blast and until danger from flying material and misfires is past.

(2) TUNNEL BLASTING. (a) All persons shall retire from tunnel and shaft or to a distance of 1,500 feet from the face of a tunnel being blasted. During shaft sinking operations, the provisions of section Ind 5.17 (1) apply.

(b) Whenever blasting is being done in a tunnel, at points likely to be broken through to where other men are at work, the person or person in charge shall, before any holes are loaded, give warning of danger to all persons who may be working where the blasts may break through, and he shall not allow any holes to be charged until a warning is acknowledged and men are removed.

(3) SPECIAL BLASTING OPERATIONS. (a) When chambering blast holes at the bottom, persons shall retire not less than 75 feet from the collar of the hole at right angles to its axis and away from any ledge of rock.

(b) When blasting in a building, the charge shall be properly placed and covered if necessary to prevent damage to persons or property. Passageways shall be guarded manually or by visual or audible signal. Warnings shall be sounded and persons shall retire to a sheltered place. Guards shall not be required to use flags or signs.

(c) When using explosives under masts or for shooting wells and post holes, it shall be the duty of the blaster to make certain that all persons are under cover or beyond danger from flying material.

Ind 5.18 Precautions after blast. (1) When firing by cap and fuse, a timed minimum of 15 minutes shall have elapsed before any person is permitted in the blast area. However, if not more than 25 pounds of explosives are involved, the blaster shall determine the length of the minimum period. In any case, when a misfire is known or suspected, no person shall enter the area for at least 30 minutes.

(2) Before resuming operations, the blaster shall examine the area for misfired shots, unexploded or burning dynamite. In case burning dynamite is observed, no attempt shall be made to extinguish it but persons shall retire to a safe place and remain there at least 60 minutes.
(3) When it is possible to refire a misfired hole safely, it shall be disposed of in this manner. If this cannot be done, an attempt shall be made to insert a new primer after removing the stemming with a jet of water or air. A rubber or copper pipe shall be used for this purpose.

(4) The handling of misfires shall be attempted only by blasters thoroughly experienced with this work.

*Note:* Whenever such a blaster is not available, the manufacturers shall be contacted for further advice.

Ind 5.19 Blasting in cities and villages. When blasting operations are conducted within the confines of villages and cities, shots shall be screened with blasting mats to hold or catch flying material. Shots shall be spaced, located, and charged with explosives in a manner as to minimize the danger of flying material. Short interval delay firing shall be used in all inhabited areas. Permission for the use of explosives is subject to the approval of the proper local authorities.

*Exception:* Blasting operations may be conducted in existing quarries and other locations without the use of blasting mats, provided buildings, thoroughfares, and persons are not subject to the danger of flying material and charges of explosives are kept as light as practicable with the nature of the work.

*Note:* Additional precautions to be taken for the safe storage and use of explosives are provided in the Appendix.

**UNDERGROUND MINES**

Ind 5.40 General. The handling, transportation, and storage of explosives above ground shall be governed by sections Ind 5.01 to Ind 5.19. All sections or parts of sections which are in conflict with sections Ind 5.40 to Ind 5.49 shall not apply to underground mines.

Ind 5.41 Underground storage of explosives. (1) Magazines for the underground storage of more than one day's supply of explosives shall be located at least 200 feet from any shaft or connecting winze or raise. When only one day's supply is to be stored, this distance may be reduced to 100 feet. Detonator magazines shall be located 50 feet from any shaft, winze, or raise and 25 feet away from any explosive storage magazine. Such magazines shall not be adjacent to any power circuit other than lighting circuits, nor shall they be located so that accidental explosion of their contents may cut off the escape of persons working underground.

(2) All underground magazines shall be so located and so protected as to prevent accidental impact from vehicles or falling objects.

(3) Sufficient explosives may be stored within a mine to meet the estimated requirements of such mine for 7 days.

(4) Not more than one shift's supply of explosives shall be kept at any time and not more than one day's supply may be kept in box type magazines on any level at any one time.

(5) Underground magazines shall be located in separate rooms or drifts in which no persons other than powder men are employed. Drift magazines shall be completed by the installation of a nominal 2 inch plank wall (and door) covered with sheet metal or equivalent fire resistant material, or of masonry construction with a metal door. The drift opening shall be completely closed. Nails used in the interior of this wall shall be countersunk.

(6) Magazines in open stopes shall be constructed with wooden walls 2 inches thick covered with sheet metal or equivalent.

(7) Box type magazines shall be a tight box constructed of nominal 2 inch plank or equivalent with a hinged cover.

(8) Detonator storage underground shall be in drift type or box type magazines. When the box is located in the capping house, the storage shall be limited to 3,000 detonators.

(9) All underground magazines shall be plainly marked EXPLOSIVES.

(10) Detonators and dynamite shall not be stored in the same magazine.

(11) Magazines shall be kept clean and dry and empty containers and packing shall be removed from the mine at least once a week.

(12) No flammables, except wood wedges and fibre, rubber or wooden mallets, nor any sparking metal tools or implements, shall be kept or stored in any magazine containing explosives.

(13) Magazines shall be lighted from the outside, or by portable storage battery lamps, or by permanent interior lights provided with
explosion-proof fixtures. Open flame lamps, loose matches, lighters, and flame-producing devices shall not be carried into any explosives magazine. No smoking shall be permitted while handling explosives.

(15) Explosives shall be stored so that the oldest stock is readily accessible and can be used first.

(16) When underground magazines are accessible through unlocked slope or tunnel entrances they shall be locked.

Note: Complete plans for all types of magazines are available from the U.S. Bureau of Mines, explosives manufacturers, and the Institute of Makers of Explosives.

Ind 5.42 Explosives unfit for use. The requirements as set forth in section Ind 5.10 of this code shall also apply to underground mines.

Ind 5.43 Certificates of competency for supervisory staff. All general foremen and shift foremen shall qualify as blasters. They shall instruct the miners in the provisions of these orders and in the use and handling of explosives.

Ind 5.44 Detonators and primers. (1) Only a crimped shall be used for attaching fuse to blasting caps. The employer shall furnish and keep in accessible places, ready for use, crimpers in good repair. Capped fuses shall be made up only as required.

(2) No fuses shall be capped with blasting caps in any magazine but approved bench shall be provided at a safe distance from such storage place where all fuses shall be capped. All fuse ends shall be trimmed immediately before capping.

(3) All cap and fuse and electric primers shall be made as recommended by the manufacturer. Primers consisting of less than one cartridge shall be made by inserting the cap in the end of the cartridge. They shall be made up at the face just prior to loading into the borehole, except that the primers for stopping in wet areas, sinking, or drifting may be made up in the central capping house immediately before use in the quantity needed for any one blast and carried to the face in a substantial covered wooden box.

Note: The manufacturer’s recommendations are found in “case inserts” in every case of explosives.

Ind 5.45 Use of explosives underground. (1) Explosives of Fume Class 1, 2, and 3 shall be used in blasting underground. Underground atmospheres to which men are subjected shall conform to the requirements of section Ind 3.20 (2) (b) of the general orders on mines.

(2) Explosives shall be conveyed in original shipping containers, in approved covered wooden boxes, or in sacks provided for that purpose.

(3) Detonators shall be conveyed separately from other explosives in approved containers provided for that purpose. The carrying container for capped fuses shall be of rigid construction and provided with a hinged cover. If containers are of metal, a lining of felt, or similar material, shall be provided.

(4) Explosives and detonators shall not be placed where they may be struck by vehicles or subject to contact with live wires.

WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

(5) No explosives shall be transported on underground locomotives, but they may be transported in a mine car, or in a truck, if carried in their original shipping containers or in a container as described in section Ind 5.45 (2) (3) above. No one but the train crew, driver, or powderman shall be allowed to ride on a train or truck carrying explosives. One empty car shall be interposed between the locomotive and the powder car and insulated couplings shall be used.

(6) In sinking a shaft or winze, no other material shall be carried on any cage, skip or bucket on which dynamite and detonators are handled and only those members of the crew needed for blasting may travel with such explosives or remain on the bottom while explosives are being lowered. Explosives shall be handled only in their original shipping packages or in approved containers as described in section Ind 5.45 (2) and (3).

(7) When lowering explosives for storage in underground magazines or transferring explosives from level to level, no person other than the attendants shall ride, nor shall any other material be handled in any cage or conveyance which is loaded with explosives. Dynamite and detonators shall not be lowered or hoisted together on any conveyance. A miner or powder man may transport 50 pounds of dynamite and capped fuses, or less, in approved containers when transporting explosives.

(8) In addition to the requirements provided in this order, the provision contained in subsection (8) to (16) inclusive, of section Ind 5.14 of this code shall also apply to underground mines.

Ind 5.46 Firing blasts underground with cap and fuse. (1) The use of one fuse having a nominal burning rate of less than one foot in 40 seconds is prohibited. Each new supply of safety fuse shall be tested for rate of burning by cutting off three, 3 foot lengths, dividing the burning time of each by three, and averaging the result. Any fuse which has a burning rate varying more than 10% from one foot in 40 seconds shall not be used.

(2) A minimum fuse length for all blasts except booster blasts shall be 7 feet. In booster blasting where single shots are fired, the minimum fuse length shall be 30 inches. Where five or more booster blasts are shot at one time, the minimum fuse length shall be 48 inches.

(3) No man shall “spit” more than fifteen fuses in a round of shots except when using a water-resistant or waterproof ignitacord.

(4) Where a carbide lamp or similar lighter is used in spitting fuses, a second light shall be kept burning as a safety measure, and such extra light shall be placed a safe distance from the blast.

(5) At least two men shall be present at each location where cap and fuse blasting is done.

(6) Lighting of fuse before placing primer in position is prohibited.

(7) The use of cap and fuse for firing mud cap chargers is prohibited unless charges are separated sufficiently to prevent one charge from dislodging other shots in the vicinity.

Ind 5.47 Firing blasts electrically underground. (1) Electric detonators shall not be handled within 100 feet of a portable radio transmitter.

(2) Only electric or delay electric blasting caps shall be used in operations as follows:
INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

(a) In sinking shafts or winzes or driving raises over 50 feet high, except that in such raises ignitacord may be used with cap and fuse firing.

(b) In cutting shaft stations.

(c) In drifts, crosscuts, storage pockets and pump sumps where there is not enough protection for the men from flying rock or concussion.

(3) In addition to the requirements of this order, the provisions contained in subsections (3) to (6), inclusive, of section Ind 5.16 of this code shall also apply to underground mines.

Ind 5.48 Firing blasts underground—general. (1) Persons about to fire shots shall cause warning to be given in every direction and all entrances to the place or places where shots are to be fired shall be guarded.

(2) The miners doing the blasting shall not retire to a dead-end drift or crosscut in selecting shelter from fly rock and blasting gases.

Ind 5.49 Precautions after underground blasting. (1) When firing by cap and fuse, a timed minimum of 15 minutes shall have elapsed before any person is permitted in the blast area. However, if not more than 25 pounds of explosives are involved, the blaster shall determine the length of the minimum period. In any case, when a misfire is known or suspected, no person shall enter the area for at least 30 minutes.

(2) Before resuming operations, the miner shall examine the area for misfired shots, unexploded or burning dynamite. In case burning dynamite is observed, no attempt shall be made to extinguish it but persons shall retire to a safe place and remain there at least 60 minutes.

(3) When it is possible to refine a misfired hole safely, it shall be disposed of in this manner. If this can not be done, an attempt shall be made to insert a new primer after removing the stemming with a jet of water or air. A rubber or copper pipe shall be used for this purpose.

(4) The handling of misfired shots be attempted only by miners thoroughly experienced with this work.

Appendix

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

These “Do’s” and “Don’ts” are from the latest revision adopted by the Institute of Makers of Explosives, September 30, 1955. These rules can also be found on “Case Inserts” in every case of explosives.

1. Don’t permit metal, except approved metal truck bodies, to contact cases of explosives. Metal, flammable, or corroptive substances should not be transported with explosives.

2. Don’t allow smoking or unauthorized or unnecessary persons in the vehicle.

3. DO load and unload explosives carefully.

4. DO see that other explosives are separated from blasting caps and/or electric blasting caps where it is permitted to transport them in the same vehicle.

5. Don’t store blasting caps, electric blasting caps, or primers in the same box, container, or magazine with other explosives.

6. Don’t store explosives, fuse, or fuse lighters in a wet or damp place, or near oil, gasoline, cleaning solutions or solvents, or near radiators, steam pipes, stoves, or other sources of heat.

7. Don’t store any sparking metal, or sparking metal tools in an explosives magazine.

8. Don’t smoke or have matches, open lights, or other fire or flame in or near an explosives magazine.

9. Don’t shoot into explosives or allow the discharge of firearms in the vicinity of an explosives magazine.

10. DO consult the manufacturer if nitroglycerin from deteriorated explosives has leaked onto the floor of a magazine. The floor should be desensitized by washing thoroughly with an agent approved for that purpose.

11. Don’t use sparking metal tools to open legs or wooden cases of explosives. Metallic slitter may be used for opening fiberboard cases, provided that the metallic slitter does not come in contact with the metallic fasteners of the case.

12. Don’t carry explosives in the pockets of your clothing or elsewhere on your person.

13. Don’t make up primers in a magazine, or near excessive quantities of explosives, or in excess of immediate needs.

14. Don’t insert anything but fuse in the open end of a blasting cap.

15. Don’t strike, tamper with, or attempt to remove or investigate the contents of a blasting cap or an electric blasting cap, or try to pull the wires out of an electric blasting cap.

16. Don’t allow children or unauthorized or unnecessary persons to be present where explosives are being handled or used.

17. Don’t handle, use, or be near explosives during the approach to or progress of any electrical storm. All persons should retire to a place of safety.

18. Don’t use explosives or blasting equipment that are obviously deteriorated or damaged.
19. Don't attempt to reclaim or use fuse, blasting caps, electric blasting caps, or any other explosives that have been water soaked, even if they have dried out. Consult the manufacturer.
20. DO carefully examine the face or rock before drilling to determine the possible presence of unfired explosives. Never drill into explosives.
21. DO check the bore hole carefully with a wooden tamping pole or measuring tape to determine its condition before loading.
22. Don't stack surplus explosives near working areas during loading.
23. DO cut from the spoil the line of detonating fuse extending into a bore hole before loading the remainder of the charge.
24. Don't load a bore hole with explosives after springing (enlarging the hole with explosives) or upon completion of drilling without making certain that it is cool and that it does not contain any hot metal, or burning or smoldering material. Temperatures in excess of 150° F. are dangerous.
25. Don't spring a bore hole near another hole loaded with explosives.
26. Don't force cartridges or any explosives into a bore hole or past any obstruction in a bore hole.
27. Don't force a blasting cap or an electric blasting cap into dynamite. Insert the cap into a hole made with a punch designed for the purpose.
28. Don't slit, drop, deform, or abuse the primer.
29. Don't connect blasting caps, or electric blasting caps to detonating fuse except by methods recommended by the manufacturer.
30. Don't tamp dynamite that has been removed from the cartridge.
31. Don't tamp with metallic devices of any kind. Use wood tamping tools with no exposed metal parts except non-sparking metal connectors for jointed poles. Avoid violent tamping. Never tamp the primer.
32. DO confine the explosives in the bore hole with sand, earth, clay, or other suitable incombustible stemming material.
33. Don't kink or injure fuse, or electric blasting cap wires, when tamping.
34. Don't uncork the wires or use electric blasting caps during dust storms or near any other source of large charges of static electricity.
35. Don't uncork the wires or use electric blasting caps in the vicinity of radio-frequency transmitters except at safe distances.
36. DO keep the firing circuit completely insulated from the ground or other conductors such as bare wires, rails, pipes, or other paths of stray currents.
37. Don't have electric wires or cables of any kind near electric blasting caps or other explosives except at the time and for the purpose of firing the blast.
38. DO test all electric blasting caps, either singly or when connected in a circuit, using only a blasting galvanometer specifically designed for the purpose.
39. Don't use in the same circuit either electric blasting caps made by more than one manufacturer, or electric blasting caps of different style or function even if made by the same manufacturer, unless such use is approved by the manufacturer.

40. Don't attempt to fire a circuit of electric blasting caps with less than the minimum current specified by the manufacturer.
41. DO be sure that all wire ends to be connected are bright and clean.
42. DO keep the electric cap wires or leading wires short-circuited until ready to fire.
43. DO handle fuse carefully to avoid damaging the covering. In cold weather warm slightly before using to avoid cracking the waterproofing.
44. Don't use short fuse. Never use less than 50 inches. Know the burning speed of the fuse and make sure you have time to reach a place of safety.
45. Don't cut fuse until you are ready to insert it into a blasting cap. Cut off an inch or two to insure a dry end. Cut fuse squarely across with a clean sharp blade. Seat the fuse lightly against the cap charge and avoid twisting after it is in place.
46. Don't crimp blasting caps by any means except a cap crimper designed for the purpose. Make certain that the cap is securely crimped to the fuse.
47. DO light fuse with a fuse lighter designed for the purpose. If a match is used the fuse should be slit at the end and the match head held in the slit against the powder core. Then scratch the match head with an abrasive surface to light the fuse.
48. Don't light fuse until sufficient stemming has been placed over the explosive to prevent sparks or flying match heads from coming into contact with the explosive.
49. Hold explosives in the hands when lighting fuse.
50. Don't fire a blast without a positive signal from the one in charge, who has made certain that all surplus explosives are in a safe place, all persons and vehicles are at a safe distance or under sufficient cover, and that adequate warning has been given.
51. Don't return to the area of any blast until the smoke and fumes from the blast have been dissipated.
52. Don't attempt to investigate a misfire too soon. Follow recognized rules and regulations, or if no rules or regulations are in effect, wait at least one hour.
53. Don't drill, bore, or pick out a charge of explosives that has misfired. Misfires should be handled only by or under the direction of a competent and experienced person.
54. Don't abandon any explosives.
55. DO dispose of or destroy explosives in strict accordance with approved methods. Consult the manufacturer or follow the Institute of Makers of Explosives pamphlet on destroying explosives.
56. Don't leave explosives, empty cartridges, boxes, liners, or other materials used in the packing of explosives lying around where children or unauthorized persons or livestock can get at them.
57. Don't allow any wood, paper, or fiber materials employed in packing explosives to be burned in a stove, fireplace, or other confined space, or to be used for any purpose. Such materials should be destroyed by burning at an isolated location out of doors and no person should be nearer than 10 feet after the burning has started.
INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

STATEMENT BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Pursuant to the provisions of section 14.65, Statutes, the Public Service Commission has cooperated with the Industrial Commission and Motor Vehicle Department in the preparation of safety regulations relating to the transportation of explosives. It is our understanding that the Industrial Commission and the Motor Vehicle Department will issue separate orders with each covering the area of jurisdiction of the particular department.

The Public Service Commission is of the opinion that the provisions of the orders relating to the transportation of explosives by motor vehicle are proper and necessary for effective safety regulations under the provisions of Chapters 131 and 194, Wisconsin Statutes.

JAMES R. DURFEE, Chairman
W. F. WHITNEY, Commissioner
GEORGE P. STEINMETZ, Commissioner

LITERATURE ON EXPLOSIVES

All explosive manufacturers have pamphlets or handbooks available for distribution to users of explosives giving very complete information on the proper use and storage of explosives. A particularly informative pamphlet is one entitled, “Safety in the Handling and Use of Explosives,” issued by the Institute of Makers of Explosives, 250 East 43rd Street, New York 17, N.Y.