

FRANCE

As the result of an investigation by French authorities shortly after the Courrières disaster, the Ministerial Order of 1907 was issued. The following is a short résumé of this Decree, which came into force on April 18, 1908:

Art. 1.—All mines employing more than 100 men underground shall be provided with breathing apparatus capable of allowing the wearer to remain at least one hour in irrespirable atmosphere. Mines employing less than this number of men are exempted, unless very dangerous conditions prevail.

Art. 2.—In gaseous mines, if in connection with a central rescue station, the number of apparatus at each mine may be reduced to two; otherwise, the number must be at least two for the first 200 men on the largest shift, plus one for every 200 men above this number; but no mine is required to keep more than six appliances.

Art. 3.—Non-gaseous mines are not required to keep more than two sets of apparatus.

Art. 4.—The Minister is empowered to group together several adjoining mines for the purposes mentioned in Arts. 2 and 3.

Art. 5.—The number of appliances at a central station is to be determined according to a system outlined in Art. 2, having regard to the largest mine of the group. There shall be not less than one apparatus per 1,000 underground workmen in all the affiliated mines, but no station need contain more than twenty sets of apparatus.

Art. 6.—A central station shall be under the control of a competent engineer or inspector and shall be able to furnish at least ten trained rescuers, or as many rescuers as apparatus is provided for at the station; provided that the number of sets of apparatus exceeds ten.

Art. 7.—The Minister may order any defects of organization in a central station to be remedied.

Art. 8.—The appliances at each mine are to be kept in a dépôt, underground or at the surface, within easy reach, and are to be under the charge of an authorized person.

Art. 9.—The apparatus is to be practised with at regular intervals by chosen officials or workmen who are thoroughly familiar with the mine. There must never be less than eight of these men for each pit, nor a less number of men than double the number of appliances; they

ho escape
protected
the Cour-
the force

following
nstallation

organized

tral organ-
corps, the
er cent. of
s belonging
apparatus
ever, it is
lete rescue

a central
to a corps
t category.
ps, and for
two hand-
rce of only
o breathing
the district
st, however,
ormal sized

gs and any
also organize
the number
ent is to be
n with the

g apparatus
authorities."