

Fletcher

Product
Newsletter



J. H. Fletcher & Co. Huntington, West Virginia

December 1996

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DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

In 1997 J. H. Fletcher & Co. will celebrate 60 years as a manufacturer of underground mining equipment. During that time, our machinery has gone through many changes to meet government and customer demands.

Like the anniversary diamond, this company has many facets that have resulted in its success. These pivotal changes have come from our customers and our past,

present and future employees. The effort these people have put into the industry has resulted in a shining example of teamwork.

Since 1937, J. H. Fletcher & Co. has committed its resources to the reduction of underground mining accidents, through its designs. We believe your input has made a major contribution to that success. Join with us in our celebration of the past 60 years and as we look toward the year 2000 and beyond.

MSHA

Problem Areas on Roof Bolter Dust Control Systems

MSHA

MSHA has provided J. H. Fletcher & Co. with a hot article on dust collection systems. If you own a roof bolter this is a must for you to read.

Based on sampling data from both mine operators and MSHA, many roof bolters in underground coal mines are exposed to significant amounts of silica containing dust. MSHA is concerned with this exposure and in light of our silica emphasis program, intends to stress the need to control drill dust in underground mines to the enforcement staff. MSHA inspectors will be

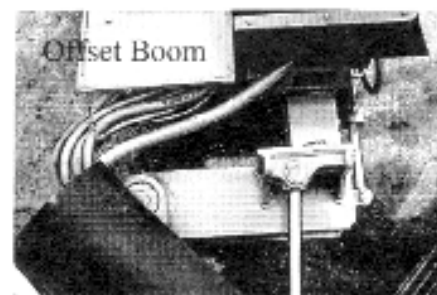
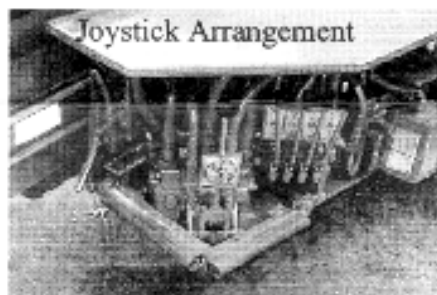
examining the dust control system on drills used in underground coal mines to determine compliance with 30 CFR Part 72.630. In addition, inspectors will apply the ventilation requirements under 75.362 (a) (2) to assure mine operators are providing the necessary controls for drill dust.

Roof bolter dry dust collectors are approved units under 30 CFR Part 33. Federal Regulations under 30 CFR Part 72.630 require that the dust collector be maintained in the approved condition. Visible dust exiting the dust collection system at hoses, the dust box door, or the

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Modernization Facility Going Strong

The modernization and rebuild facility at J. H. Fletcher & Co. has been in operation since 1994 bringing yesterdays roof bolting equipment up to todays standards by incorporating recent design innovations. At the facility, the machines are stripped down and all of the components are reworked or modernized. This is done in close association with the Engineering Department to ensure that old parts are returned to original specs and that any safety or design improvements are incorporated. Any parts that can not be rebuilt are replaced with stock rebuilt parts or in many cases with new parts. With the completion of this process the



new and rebuilt components are assembled and tested as if it were a new machine.

Some of the new improvements that are retrofitted to machines include Auto Dump Dust Tanks, replacement of boom with offset style boom, addition of L-Style ATRS, outby ATRS pads and Joystick handle arrangements.

The modernized machine comes with a 6 month warranty as well as continued accessibility to Fletcher engineers and service personnel. With the rebuild and modernization facility we are making a commitment to ensure that equipment designed and built by J. H. Fletcher & Co. can be constantly upgraded to provide the customer with state-of-the-art equipment at a reasonable price.

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muffler exhaust are indications that the unit is not functioning as an approved dust collection system. Dust exiting the drill hole after the initial 4-6 inches indicates a system which is not functioning properly.

A) Areas on dry dust collectors that inspectors will focus on are:

- * Holes in vacuum hoses from:
 - a) Chuck to dust box
 - b) Dust box to blower
 - c) Blower to muffler
- * Damaged or missing dust box seals
- * Damaged/missing/overloaded dust collection filters.
- * Contaminated mufflers
- * Vacuum system leaks due to blower bypass valve, connected vacuum pressure indicators or loose connections
- * Contamination of "clean side" of dust

* Dust collector inlet on drill steel/bit is inappropriate for drilling conditions in mine

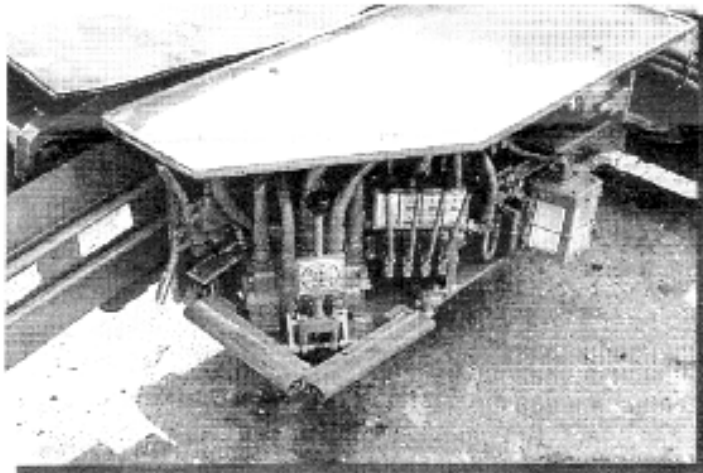
B) Areas on wet drilling systems that inspectors will focus on are:

- * Visible dust during drilling
- * Adequate water supply - continuous supply line or tank
- * Holes or bad connections on hose
- * Adequate water pressure

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the local MSHA office or MSHA's national office at (703) 235-1358.

Valve Tray Lift Kit

For Machines With Joystick

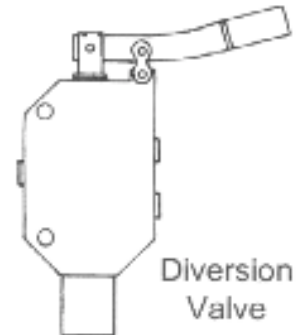


In the last several years J. H. Fletcher & Co. has offered a joystick handle arrangement at the drillers station. This change in our design has been widely accepted throughout the industry without problems. However, in the last several months, we have been notified that the position of the joystick and associated handles in coal seams above 6 feet is too short which causes some operators to bend over more than necessary. To solve this problem, in conditions six feet or greater, J. H. Fletcher & Co. now offers a valve tray lift kit for arm feed bolters. We believe this change will reduce operator fatigue at this operating level. We recommend however, before purchasing the kit, that you evaluate the operator usage and the location of their body while using these handles and determine if the coal height will be maintained at six feet or higher. If you think this kit would be useful, please call the service department with the serial number of your machine and request part number 284133 for the left boom and 284134 for the right boom.

NEW

Two Hand Diversion Valve

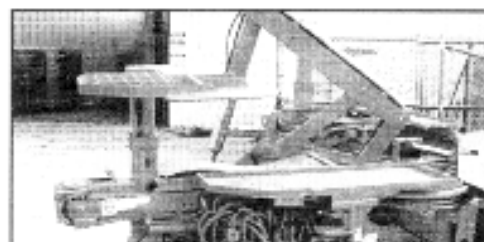
In April 1994 (see Bulletin No. 51) J. H. Fletcher & Co. went to a two hand fast feed system on all roof bolters. In July 1994 we also notified our customers (see Bulletin No. 52) of certain instances where roof bolter operators were bypassing this system, so that they could work with a one hand fast feed system again. Since then we have developed, along with a vendor a diversion valve that would prevent such a bypass.



Effective immediately, if you are adding or replacing the two hand fast feed you will receive this new diversion valve that will not allow anyone to bypass the system. If you have NPT (National Pipe Taper) the correct part number is 38139. For machines with a straight thread O ring, the part number is 38140. If you have any questions, please call our service department.

Canopy Policy

Most J. H. Fletcher & Co. dual boom roof bolters utilize canopies at the drill station. Canopies are placed at this location to provide protection to the operator from objects falling from the roof. Due to the differences in mining heights, J. H. Fletcher & Co. has been asked to clarify whether the canopy gussets may be placed up or down when mining heights become critical. If you do not have our most recent safety notice on this topic, please call the Risk Management Department and request Bulletin No. 65.





HEALTH WATCH

Back pain and injury is often a problem in the mining industry. However, back pain can be avoided by remembering the acronym **BACK** and practicing the advice this phrase offers. **BACK** stands for the words **B**alance, **A**lignment, **C**lose and **K**nees.

Balance: While lifting, keep your balance.

Alignment: Keep objects centered on your body.

Close: By keeping the object close to your body while you are lifting you are better able to keep a good posture and put more of your strength into lifting.

Knees: Whether you are lifting a light load or a heavy load it is important to bend your knees and lift with your powerful leg muscles while keeping your back straight.

Accounting News



Chuck Brown, a graduate of Marshall University with a BBA in accounting, has recently joined our accounting department full time. Chuck's responsibilities include accounts receivable and the collection of past due accounts. Our terms call for all invoices to be paid within thirty days. If you have an invoice you have questions about, call Chuck at (304) 525-7811 extension 217 or FAX at (304) 525-4025. Please reference the invoice number and dollar amount when calling or faxing, this information will help him answer your questions as quickly as possible.

The information contained in this newsletter has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and the editors have exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, J. H. Fletcher & Co. does not guarantee that contents of this publication are correct and statements attributed to other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of J. H. Fletcher & Co.

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