

Radiologic Interpretation

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAMS
DIVISION OF COAL MINE WORKERS' COMPENSATION



Note: This report is authorized by law (30 USC 901 et. seq. and 20 CFR 718.102). The results of this interpretation will aid in determining the claimant's eligibility for black lung benefits. This method of collecting information complies with the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act of 1974, and OMB Circular No. 108.

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Expires 12/31/2023

Please record your interpretation of a single image by placing "X" in the appropriate boxes on the form and return it promptly to the office that requested the interpretation. The form must be completed as per instructions, signed by a physician, and contain the miner's name and DOL's Case ID Number. The Department of Labor will pay only for images of acceptable quality (1, 2 and 3). Images of inferior quality (U/R) must be retaken without cost to the Department.

1. Miner's Name (Print)
1A. Date of X-Ray
1B. DOL's Case ID Number
1C. Image Quality (if not Grade 1. Give Reason):

1D. Is Image Completely Negative?
2A. Any Parenchymal Abnormalities Consistent with Pneumoconiosis?

2B. Small Opacities Consistent With Pneumoconiosis
a. SHAPE/SIZE
b. ZONES
c. PROFUSION
2C. Large Opacities Consistent With Pneumoconiosis

3A. ANY PLEURAL ABNORMALITIES
CONSISTENT WITH PNEUMOCONIOSIS?

3B. PLEURAL PLAQUES (mark site, calcification, extent and width)
Chest Wall
Site
Calcification
Extent (chest wall; combined for in profile and face on)
Width (in profile only) (3mm minimum width required)

3C. COSTOPHRENIC ANGLE OBLITERATION

3D. DIFFUSE PLEURAL THICKENING (mark site, calcification, extent, and width)
Chest wall
Site
Calcification
Extent (chest wall, combined for in profile and face on)
Width (in profile only) (3mm minimum width required)

4A. ANY OTHER ABNORMALITIES?

4B. OTHER SYMBOLS (OBLIGATORY)

REPORT ITEMS WHICH MAY BE OF PRESENT CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS SECTION

4C OTHER COMMENTS

SHOULD WORKER SEE PERSONAL PHYSICIAN BECAUSE OF COMMENTS IN SECTION 4C?

5A. FACILITY PROVIDING RADIOLOGIC EXAMINATION:
DOL Medical Provider Number (if applicable):
Was image taken by a registered radiographer/radiographic technologist?
Name
Registration No.
State

5B. Physician Interpreting Image (Print Name):

Are you: Board-certified radiologist? Board-eligible radiologist? B-reader?
5C. I certify that this image has been interpreted in accordance with the instructions provided on Form CM-954a and/or 20 CFR 718, Subpart B, 718.102 and Appendix A. I also certify that the information furnished is correct and am aware that my signature attests to the accuracy of the results reported.

PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE
DATE OF READING (Mo., Day, Yr.)

**TWO FILING OPTIONS:**

1. To file electronically, submit completed form to the COAL Mine Portal:  
[https://eclaimant.dol.gov/portal/?program\\_name=BL](https://eclaimant.dol.gov/portal/?program_name=BL)
2. To file by mail, send completed form to:  
**US Department of Labor  
OWCP/DCMWC  
PO Box 8307  
London, KY 40742-8307**

**PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT**

We estimate that it will take an average of 5 minutes to complete this information collection, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. If you have any comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden, send them to the Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, U. S. Department of Labor, Room N-3464, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. **DO NOT SEND THE COMPLETED FORM TO THIS OFFICE.**

**PRIVACY ACT NOTICE**

The following information is provided in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 USC 552a. (1) Submission of this information is required under the Black Lung Benefits Act. (2) The information will be used to determine eligibility for benefits and the amount of benefits payable under the Act. (3) The information may be used by other agencies or persons in handling matters relating, directly or indirectly, to the subject matter of the claim, including potentially liable coal mine operators and their insurance carriers; medical professionals in obtaining medical services or evaluations; contractors providing automated data processing services to the Department of Labor; representatives of the parties to the claim; and federal, state or local agencies in obtaining information about eligibility for benefits. (4) Furnishing all requested information will facilitate the claims adjudication process; not providing all or any part of the requested information may delay the process, or result in an unfavorable decision or a reduced level of benefits. (5) This information is included in Systems of Records DOL/OWCP-2 and DOL/OWCP-9, published at 81 Federal Register 25765, 25858, 25866 (April 29, 2016), or as updated and republished.

**NOTICE**

If you have a substantially limiting physical or mental impairment, Federal disability nondiscrimination law gives you the right to receive help from OWCP in the form of communication assistance, accommodation and modification to aid you in the claims process. For example, we will provide you with copies of documents in alternate formats, communication services such as sign language interpretation, or other kinds of adjustments or changes to account for the limitations of your disability. Please contact our office or the claims examiner to ask about this assistance.

**NOTE:** Persons are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number

For Purpose of Coding for the Department of Labor, the following codes will be used  
ILO 2011 INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF RADIOGRAPHS OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSES

FEATURES		CODES		DEFINITIONS
Technical Quality  Parenchymal Abnormalities Small Opacities		1 2 3 U/R		Good Acceptable, with no technical defect likely to impair classification of the radiograph for pneumoconiosis. Acceptable, with some technical defect but still acceptable for classification purposes. Unacceptable for classification purposes.
	Profusion	0/- 0/0 0/1 1/0 1/1 1/2 2/1 2/2 2/3 3/2 3/3 3/+		The category of profusion is based on the assessment of concentration of opacities by comparison with the standard radiographs. Category 0 – small opacities absent or less profuse than the lower limit of Category 1. Categories 1, 2 and 3 – represent increasing profusion of small opacities as defined by the corresponding standard radiographs.
	Zones	RU RM RL  LU LM LL		The zones in which the opacities are seen are recorded. The right (R) and left (L) thorax are both divided into three zones – upper (U), middle (M) and lower (L).
	Shape and Size rounded	p/p q/q r/r		The category of profusion is determined by considering the profusion as a whole over the affected zones of the lung and by comparing this with the standard radiographs. The letters p, q, and r denote the presence of small rounded opacities. Three sizes are defined by the appearances on standard radiographs. p = diameter up to about 1.5 mm. q = diameter exceeding about 1.5 mm and up to about 3 mm. r = diameter exceeding about 3 mm and up to about 10 mm.
	irregular	s/s t/t u/u		The letters s, t and u denote the presence of small irregular opacities. Three sizes are defined by the appearance on standard radiographs. s = width up to about 1.5 mm. t = width exceeding about 1.5 mm and up to about 3 mm. u = width exceeding 3 mm and up to about 10 mm.
	mixed	p/s p/t p/u p/q p/r q/s q/t q/u q/p q/r r/s r/t r/u r/p r/q s/p s/q s/r s/t s/u t/p t/q t/r t/s t/u u/p u/q u/r u/s u/t		For mixed shapes (or sizes) of small opacities the predominant shape and size is recorded first. The presence of a significant number or another shape and size is recorded after the oblique stroke.
Large Opacities		A B C	The categories are defined in terms of dimensions of the opacities.  Category A – an opacity having a greatest diameter exceeding about 10 mm and up to and including 50 mm, or several opacities each greater than about 10 mm, the sum of whose greatest diameters does not exceed 50 mm.  Category B – one or more opacities larger or more numerous than those in category A whose combined area does not exceed the equivalent of the right upper zone.  Category C – one or more opacities whose combined area exceed the equivalent of the right upper zone.	
Pleural Abnormalities  Pleural Thickening Chest Wall	Type  Site  Width  Face On  Extent	R L  A B C  Y N  1 2 3	Two types of pleural thickening of the chest wall are recognized: circumscribed (plaques) and diffuse. Both types may occur together. Pleural thickening of the chest wall is recorded separately for the right (R) and left (L) thorax. For pleural thickening seen along the lateral chest wall the measurement of maximum width is made from the inner line of the chest wall to the inner margin of the shadow seen most sharply at the parenchymal-pleural boundary. The maximum width usually occurs at the inner margin of the rib shadow at its outermost point.  a = maximum width up to about 5 mm. b = maximum width over about 5 mm and up to about 10 mm. c = maximum width over about 10 mm. The presence of pleural thickening seen face-on is recorded even if it can be seen also in profile. If pleural thickening is seen face-on only, width cannot usually be measured. Extent of pleural thickening is defined in terms of the maximum length of pleural involvement, or as the sum of maximum lengths, whether seen in profile or face-on.  1 = total length equivalent up to one quarter of the projection of the lateral chest wall. 2 = total length exceed one quarter but not one half of the projection of the lateral chest wall. 3 = total length exceeding one half of the projection of the lateral chest lateral chest wall	
Diaphragm  Costophrenic Angle	Presence  Site Presence	Y N  R L Y N	A plaque involving the diaphragmatic pleura is recorded as present (Y) or absent (N) separately for the right (R) or left (L) thorax. The presence (Y) or absence (N) costophrenic angle obliteration is recorded separately from thickening over other areas for the right (R) and left (L) thorax. The lower limit for the obliteration is defined by a standard radiograph showing profusion subcategory 1/1 t/t. If the thickening extends up the chest wall then both costophrenic angle obliteration and pleural thickening should be recorded.	
Pleural Calcification	Site  Site chest wall diaphragm other  extent	R L R L L  1 2 3	The site and extent of pleural calcification are recorded separately for the two lungs, and the extent defined in terms of dimensions. "Other" includes calcification of the mediastinal and pericardial pleura.  1 = an area of calcified pleura with greatest diameter up to about 20 mm or a number of such areas the sum of whose greatest diameters does not exceed about 20 mm.  2 = an area of calcified pleura with greatest diameter exceeding about 20 mm and up to about 100 mm, or a number of such areas the sum of whose greatest diameters exceed about 20 mm but does not exceed about 100 mm.  3 = an area of calcified pleura with greatest diameter exceeding about 100 mm or a number of such area whose sum of greatest diameters exceeds about 100 mm.	
Symbols			It is to be taken that the definition of such of the Symbols is preceded by an appropriate word or phrase such as "suspect", "pneumoconiotic changes suggestive of", or "opacities suggestive of", etc.	
aa - atherosclerotic at - significant apical pleural thickening ax - coalescence of small opacities bu - bulla(e) ca - cancer: thoracic malignancies excluding mesothelioma cg - calcified non-pneumoconiotic nodules (e.g. granuloma) or nodes cn - calcification in small pneumoconiotic opacities co - abnormality of cardiac size or shape cp - cor pulmonale cv - cavity di - marked distortion of an intrathoracic structure ef - pleural effusion em - emphysema es - eggshell calcification of hilar or mediastinal lymph nodes fr - fractured rib(s) (acute or healed)		h ho ic it k me pa pb p px ra rp tt od	- enlargement of non-calcified hilar or mediastinal lymph nodes - honeycomb lung - ill-defined diaphragm border - ill-defined heart border - septal (Kerley) lines - mesothelioma - plate atelectasis - parenchymal bands - pleural thickening of an interlobar fissure - pneumothorax - rounded atelectasis - rheumatoid pneumoconiosis - tuberculosis - other disease or significant abnormality	
Comments	Presence	Y N	Comments should be recorded pertaining to the classification of the radiograph particularly if some other cause is thought to be responsible for a shadow.	