

Recognised Standard 06

Inspections

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999

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Recognised standards

This document is issued in accordance with PART 5—RECOGNISED STANDARDS and Section 37(3) of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*.

PART 5 - RECOGNISED STANDARDS

71 Purpose of recognised standards

A standard may be made for safety and health (a “recognised standard”) stating ways to achieve an acceptable level of risk to persons arising out of coal mining operations.

72 Recognised standards

- (1) The Minister may make recognised standards.
- (2) The Minister must notify the making of a recognised standard by gazette notice.
- (3) The chief executive must keep a copy of each recognised standard and any document applied, adopted or incorporated by the recognised standard available for inspection, without charge, during normal business hours at each department office dealing with safety and health.
- (4) The chief executive, on payment by a person of a reasonable fee decided by the chief executive, must give a copy of a recognised standard to the person.

73 Use of recognised standards in proceedings

A recognised standard is admissible in evidence in a proceeding if—

- (a) the proceeding relates to a contravention of a safety and health obligation imposed on a person under part 3; and
- (b) it is claimed that the person contravened the obligation by failing to achieve an acceptable level of risk; and
- (c) the recognised standard is about achieving an acceptable level of risk.

PART 3- SAFETY AND HEALTH OBLIGATION

37. How obligation can be discharged if regulation or recognised standard made

- 37(3) if a recognised standard states a way or ways of achieving an acceptable level of risk, a person discharges the person’s safety and health obligation in relation to the risk only by—
- (a) adopting and following a stated way; or
 - (b) adopting and following another way that achieves a level of risk that is equal to or better than the acceptable level.”

Where a part of a recognised standard or other normative document referred to therein conflicts with the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* or the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001*, the Act or Regulation takes precedence.

This recognised standard is issued under the authority of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to provide guidance on matters required for a workplace inspection regime for a mine under Chapter 4, Part 10 Div 2 of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001

2. Scope

This standard has two major parts.

- Part A applies to inspections required at a mine as a result of risk assessments conducted as part of the implementation of mine safety and health management system.
- Part B is a transitional schedule of inspections for underground coal mines until a Part A inspection regime has been developed for the mine. A Part B inspection regime should only be used until the Part A inspection regime is implemented

3. Application framework

This standard applies to those inspections which are required to be the subject of formal mine records. Inspection regimes implemented at a mine must either be based on a risk management process and part of the mine safety management system or done in accordance with the schedule of inspections included in Part B of this recognised standard.

Inspections developed under Part A of the standard, allows the integration of automated technology and human activity into the inspection regime for a mine

Inspections are not to be considered as a primary control for hazards. Inspections are conducted in order to;

1. monitor the current hazards in the mine working environment
2. implement corrective action
3. confirm that the effectiveness of controls put in place to manage each hazard to achieve an acceptable level of risk in that workplace.

When developing an inspection regime regard must be given to the requirements to activities as defined in Section 60.(8) and (9) of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*

4. Technical guidance

(a) Inspections based on risk management process

The *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* requires all mines to develop and implement a mine Safety Management System based on risk management processes. Included in this system are Principal Hazard Management Plans, Standard Operating Procedures and numerous other mine-based procedures. Each of these plans or procedures may include a requirement for inspections for monitoring the safety of the workplace and the health of persons where applicable. In addition, some will include the identification of hazards, which, if present, will require an immediate response. Some mines use the acronym TARPS standing for Trigger Action Response Plans.

Monitoring of a hazard or control may be done in a number or combination of ways, physical inspection being the most common method. Technology such as automatic monitoring and remote

sensing devices can be used to improve the quality of information or change the frequency of gathering and recording information but, as a general rule, it should not replace entirely the human inspection activity.

Fixed monitoring locations may not be appropriate for every source of hazard and therefore it is important that the role of persons inspecting high consequence hazards is not diminished.

The principle focus of any inspection regime is to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that the risks to persons in the workplace are kept to an acceptable level.

Matters to be covered by inspections are included in Schedule 5 of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulations 2001. One matter not to be overlooked is the health of persons.

It should never be assumed that people are always fit for duty or that the working environment has not adversely affected them whilst on duty. For example, persons working alone in isolated areas of a mine or in hot and humid areas will need a system to be put in place that regularly monitors their well being.

(b) Inspection schedule where no risk management process has been applied

Schedule 9: Inspection schedule

TABLE 1

Part and Activity	Inspection Frequency	Who Must Inspect
Any part of mine (and the airways on the intake side of it) affected when the main fans stop for more than 30 minutes	Before the electric supply is restored to that part Before people resume work	An ERZ Controller
Any part of a mine ventilated with an auxiliary fan which has failed	Before persons other than those inspecting re-enter that part and before electrical power is restored to apparatus in that part	An ERZ Controller
Every part of the mine situated beyond a station at the surface, where persons will work or travel, and all safely accessible temporarily stopped working places on the intake side of the last working place	Within two hours immediately before the commencement of a shift, unless appropriate inspections have been made during the preceding shift	An ERZ Controller
All parts of the mine beyond a station at the start of a ventilation district, in which persons will work or travel	Once during each shift	An ERZ Controller
All working places in each ventilation district	Four hourly. Must be present while mining activities take place	An ERZ Controller

All safely accessible working places temporarily stopped on the intake side of the last working place	Once a each shift when a succession of shifts are worked	An ERZ Controller
Waste workings	Weekly, or before entry of mineworkers	An ERZ Controller accompanied by an experienced miner
All main airways not otherwise inspected, including return airways	Weekly	An ERZ Controller
Any working face inbye the last completed line of cut throughs	Before any electrical coal cutting, loading or mobile machine is first used at that face	An ERZ Controller

5. Accountabilities / competencies

The Safety Management System must identify the competencies, accountabilities and appointments of persons conducting the inspection process. Numerous persons each with limited specialised skills may be co-ordinated to provide a competent inspection regime. One of the important functions of the Safety Management System will be to ensure that competent persons perform the inspections at the specified frequency without exception.

6. Definitions

As per Act and Regulation