



## Mine site visit guide for doctors performing statutory medicals for mine and quarry workers

### Requirement

Supervising doctors approved by Resources Safety and Health Queensland to supervise and report on coal mine worker health assessments must visit an operating coal mine at least once every three years to comply with their conditions of approval. Similarly, [QGL04 – Guideline for respiratory health surveillance of workers in Queensland mineral mines and quarries](#) requires appropriate doctors for mineral mine and quarry respiratory health surveillance to visit an operating coal mine, mineral mine or quarry once every three years.

### Purpose

The purpose of the site visits is to provide doctors with some basic familiarity with typical positions and tasks associated with mining, quarrying and material processing, and their potential for exposure to occupational hazards. In particular, doctors should be familiar with the occupations and tasks associated with higher exposure to respiratory hazards like respirable dust and silica, welding fumes and diesel particulates, as well as other occupational health hazards and risks that may have an adverse health effect.

### Learning opportunities

The visits will provide doctors with opportunities to increase understanding and knowledge of:

- The basics of mining, quarrying and processing operations and their associated environments
- Induction process and information provided to workers
- Occupational hazards associated with mines and quarries that may have potential adverse health effects, including for example, dust exposure, other hazardous substances, heat, manual tasks, noise, vibration and psychosocial considerations.
- Effective means to control occupational hazards through the hierarchy of controls
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and their limitations
- Jobs and tasks associated with higher respirable dust exposure
- Exposure monitoring requirements for dust and atmospheric monitoring technology for other contaminants
- Different types of job positions and what physical and psychological requirements may be required to safely perform these roles
- Potential restrictions and alternative duties to support return to work, including exposure monitoring for workers with respiratory disease.

Doctors can observe different activities at different types of operations, such as:

Underground mine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visit working faces</li><li>• Observe production and maintenance activities</li><li>• Observe equipment for loading and transport of material to the surface</li><li>• Observe roof bolting, roof support and stone dusting</li><li>• Observe dust control practices</li></ul>
------------------	--

Open cut mine or quarry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe equipment used for disruption and removal of topsoil and overburden and extraction and removal of material; pit development</li> <li>• Observe dust control practices</li> </ul>
Preparation or processing plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe exposures that may be associated with crushing, washing, separating, and sizing of material for market</li> </ul>

## Arranging mine and quarry visits

Doctors are responsible for organising their mine or quarry visit. Supervising doctors, who are also an appointed medical adviser, and appropriate doctors can contact the employer or site senior executive who appointed them as they may be able to assist in arranging a mine or quarry visit. You may need to arrange a visit to a site that is not the closest to you if a nearby mine or quarry is unable to accommodate you by the due date.

## Safety and health matters

When planning a site visit, please consider your fitness and any medications you may be taking that may impact on your health and safety during the visit, taking into account factors such as the physical demands of the visit and environment and hazards to which you may be exposed. These may include:

• Hot and humid conditions	• Noise
• Uneven walking surfaces or long walking distances	• Weight of PPE (at least 7.5kg for underground and up to 25kg in emergency situations)
• Limited visibility	• Dust

You should discuss safety and health matters with the site prior to your visit. Please also consider appropriate fatigue management, including journey planning in addition to the mine site visit.

## Mine site visit declaration

*(Doctors can complete and retain this section as a record of the visit. Supervising doctors can provide this document for approval purposes.)*

Mine name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Mine host name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mine host position: \_\_\_\_\_

Mine host signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor signature: \_\_\_\_\_