



Frequently asked questions on dogging and rigging

1. What legislation applies to the licensing of dogging and rigging work at a mine site?

Regulation 6.37 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995 refers to regulation 6.1 and schedule 6.3 of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996, which define dogging and rigging, and the licences applicable to this type of high risk work.

Further guidance is available from the Safe Work Australia publication *National Standard for Licensing Persons Performing High Risk Work*, available at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

2. Do I need to be assessed as competent even if I already have a high risk work licence?

Yes. Regulation 4.13 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995 deals with competency assessment at a mine site. The competency assessment, or verification of competency (VOC), must be completed for each type of plant operated at the mine site – not only where high risk work licences are required. Employees and contractors must be assessed as competent before operating plant at a mining operation, including construction projects, even if they have a high risk work licence.

The assessment process is not prescribed but both theoretical and practical assessment components should be included. A simple checklist confirming an operator has a licence is not sufficient.

3. Why are high risk work licences required for dogging and rigging?

Where mechanical equipment is used to shift loads, the energies involved can be significant and failures can have serious or even fatal consequences.

Understanding the forces involved in moving a load may require a knowledge of parameters such as:

- angles of legs of a lifting sling
- the centre of gravity
- friction coefficients of slings and attachment parts.

Identifying the “weakest link” within the system may require an understanding of the metallurgy of the equipment and the rating of components such as:

- anchorage points
- connection lugs.

Doggers and riggers need to constantly exercise good judgement to decide the best solution for moving loads. A lot of different rigging equipment is available, and combining this gear to achieve the safest lifting outcomes requires technical knowledge of the forces involved and the limits of the lifting system (e.g. working load limit). This understanding is gained through training, which is recognised by appropriate licensing classifications.

Where judgement is not required to move a load (e.g. standard load with rated lugs and safe work procedure for moving it), the work may not be high risk and therefore a licence is not necessary.

4. What is dogging?

Dogging covers activities such as:

- the application of slinging techniques for the purposes of lifting a load, including selecting the method of lifting (by considering the nature of the load, its mass and the centre of gravity) and inspecting lifting gear (for suitability and condition)
- directing the operator of a crane or hoist in the movement of a load when the load is out of the operator’s view.

5. Who needs a dogger’s licence?

A high risk work licence for dogging (class DG) is required by anyone who applies slinging techniques to a load, which includes:

- calculating the safe angle for sling or chain
- selecting the type of sling or chain to be used
- selecting the correct method to secure the load
- selecting the safe method to lift the load
- checking the conditions of lifting gear for wear and tear.

A DG licence is also required by anyone directing the operator of a crane or hoist in the movement of a load when the load is out of the operator’s view.

6. What is rigging?

Rigging covers activities such as:

- moving, placing or securing a load using mechanical load shifting equipment
- erecting or dismantling cranes or hoists.

Mechanical load shifting equipment includes equipment such as cranes, hoists, chain blocks, come-alongs and winch systems.

Note: Rigging work does not include operating the mechanical load shifting equipment.

7. Who needs a rigger's licence?

A high risk work licence for rigging is required for people undertaking work where decisions regarding slinging techniques are required, such as:

- erecting precast tilt-up concrete panels and structural steel
- installing static lines and safety nets
- erecting cranes, conveyors, dredges or excavators
- demolishing a building or structure
- coordinating a multi-crane lift
- erecting suspended or fabricated hung scaffolding.

In all cases, the job needs to be appropriately risk assessed by supervisors or management before allocation of the work to determine the requirement for a high risk work licence.

There are three classes of rigging licences, each with its own description of the type of rigging work that can be performed. The classes are Basic (RB), Intermediate (RI) and Advanced (RA).

8. Do I need to have my high risk work licence with me at all times?

Yes. You should carry your high risk work licence for the type of high risk work you are undertaking. If your licence is not on hand, it must be produced at the first safe opportunity.

Note: Verification of competency (VOC) protocols (e.g. registers, photocopies) are company specific and are not evidence of a licence being held in that class of high risk work.

9. Under what circumstances may a dogger or rigger ride on a load?

None. No-one should ever ride on a load.

10. Where can I find out more about obtaining a high risk work licence?

For more information on the licensing process, visit WorkSafe's website at www.worksafe.wa.gov.au

For information about mining safety and health, contact:

Resources Safety

Department of Mines and Petroleum
100 Plain Street EAST PERTH 6004
Telephone: 08 9358 8079
Email: MinesSafety@dmp.wa.gov.au

Comprehensive work safety and health information provided by the Department of Mines and Petroleum can be found at:

www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety

Issued 16 March 2015