



SEAT BELTS AND ANCHORAGES FOR VEHICLES ON MINES

Recent enquiries regarding the application of Regulation 4.16, of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995, to vehicles such as personnel buses and mobile cranes have prompted the Inspectorate to issue this Bulletin.

The requirements of Regulation 4.16 commenced from the date of proclamation of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994 on 8 December 1995. The regulation is not retrospective and does not necessarily apply to vehicles which were manufactured prior to that date and were not designed to have seat belt anchorages fitted.

Moreover, personnel buses are not required, according to the Australian Design Rules, to have seat belts and anchorages fitted to seats other than the driver's seat and the front adjacent seat; (when provided). As many buses now in use on mines are not designed to be retrofitted with seat belts in accordance with Australian Design Rules, the requirement of this regulation cannot be applied to them.

In essence the requirements for seat belts and seat belt anchorages are directed at vehicles which **are designed** to have such fitted, however each employer should fully assess the risks involved in any operation and determine the level of protection required for the totality of the operation, as a fundamental obligation under the duty of care.

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