



MINESAFE

ISSUED BY THE MINING OPERATIONS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY (WA)

**THE FINAL
SCORE:**
Seatbelt = 10
Injury = 0



The operator of an IT28 front end loader was shaken but unhurt when the machine slid over the edge of a tailings dam roadway after the left rear wheel hit the soft shoulder.

The operator was reversing on a section of the roadway that did not have enough guideposts to properly show the edge.

The machine, ended up on its side, 2.4 metres below the roadway.

The incident reinforces the life saving role of seat belts, particularly in roll over situations. This operator walked away from serious injury.

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Garry Maher (University of Canberra) updating DME personnel on investigation methods.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. MANAGER TO REPORT POTENTIALLY SERIOUS OCCURRENCES

Section 79 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act requires the manager to inform the District Inspector of any occurrences at the mine, which in the manager's opinion have the potential to cause serious injury or harm even though no injury or harm in fact happened. The District Inspector can ask for a written report on an occurrence.

This provision is in addition to the obligation in Section 78 to report certain defined events, irrespective of whether any personal injury is caused.

The purpose of the additional requirement in Section 79, (which is not limited in the scope of matters to be reported), is to ensure that all relevant information on potential hazards and associated risks is reported to the Inspectorates.

This enables the Inspectorate to make the information available to the whole industry in order to assist in accident prevention.

2. NOTIFICATION OF PRINCIPAL EMPLOYER

Schedule 1 (Clause 9) of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act requires the principal employer or manager of any mine that was operated immediately before the

commencement of the Act to notify the District Inspector in writing of the name and address of the principal employer at the mine.

This notification must be made within 3 months of the commencement of the Act (March 1996) or the principal employer and manager of the mine are guilty of an offence.

3. CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY (COAL)

The Board of Examiners wishes to point out to the holders of coal mining certificates of competency issued under the Western Australian Coal Mines Regulations Act 1946-76, that under Schedule 1 (Savings and Transition Provisions) of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994, provision exists to make these certificates valid for metalliferous mines.

Any such validation must be carried out within 2 years from the proclamation of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act (up to December 1997). For further details contact the Secretary to the Board of Examiners, Kim Williams.

Tel: (09) 222 3269
Fax: (09) 325 2280

The proclamation of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act means a new way of doing things for everybody in the mining industry.

For mine owners, board members and their representatives, a new way of doing things underlines an onus of responsibility that has a significant impact on the way they do business. Traditionally, the "Body Corporate" has remained aloof from the day to day running of a mine, believing that it was kept at a distance by the responsibility vested by statute in the registered manager.

That responsibility now clearly resides in the boardroom, and enlightened self interest dictates that the role of the body corporate includes a thorough understanding of the concept of "Duty of Care". The challenge for financial management revolves around carrying out both the stated and implicit intent of the legislation, while maintaining the financial health of the enterprise.

In the new environment created by the legislation, the principles of risk assessment are equally important to the boardroom, and relate not only to the costs of providing safeguards but also to the cost implications of not doing so.

In the past, many mine owners and board members have had only a scant knowledge and understanding of

legislation, leaving the interpretation and detail to their appointed representatives actively involved in the running of the mine. Increasing the state of knowledge is the first step in meeting the company's obligations under the Act.

The "Duty of Care" obligations have profound implications for the purchase and use of plant and equipment, as well as for the education and training of employees. The "Duty of Care" obligation also has profound implications for the relationship between principal employers and contractors. While it may be sound business sense to secure the best possible price for contract work carried out at the mine, the **"best possible" price should now also include evidence of the contractor's ability to carry out the stated implicit intent of the legislation without compromising the safety and health of employees.**

A low lost time injury rate does not in itself constitute that evidence. Of far greater significance is the ability to demonstrate the structure and implementation of a safety plan that is the heart of the system of work. Principal employers can no longer

absolve themselves from responsibility if there are flaws in that system which are both unreasonable and unrealistic in areas such as equipment, manning, rosters, etc. It is no longer just "up to the contractor" how he fulfils the terms of the contract, because the responsibility lies with both contractor and principal, and so does the liability.

It is very much in the interests of the Body Corporate to take a keen and active interest in all aspects of the system of work as it will ultimately be held responsible, particularly when adverse consequences resulting from the decisions of company officers could reasonably have been foreseen.

The state of common knowledge in the industry about what is foreseeable and preventable is extensive, and has accumulated over decades. Not being aware of the knowledge that has made this industry a world leader in safety and health could ultimately prove to be far more costly to corporate well being than the cost of getting it right the first time.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Stedman".

Catherine Stedman
Editor

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

It has become evident that there is some uncertainty and confusion in the industry on the issue of the use of alcohol in residential and recreational facilities located on minesites (which facilities are now covered by the Act). This uncertainty may also extend to the use of prescription drugs or non-prescription (medicinal) drugs such as analgesics (aspirin etc).

The following should provide clarification:

The intent of Regulation 4.7 is not to ban alcohol from residential and recreational areas, which are now covered by the Act.

The Act concerns the safety of employers and employees **at work**.

The intent of the regulation is that persons shall not be at work while adversely affected by alcohol or other drugs.

Recreational and residential areas were brought under the ambit of the Act because (as the definition in the Act points out), these places constitute a

work place for those persons employed to service these facilities, and these facilities, when located on a minesite, are excluded from the coverage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Note that the Manager, under 4.7(4) is empowered to allow possession and consumption of liquor or drugs on a mine. The allowance of illicit drugs is not contemplated here, but prescription or medicinal drugs such as analgesics.

This has long been the practice and was provided for under the previous Act which is now repealed (refer Mines Regulation Act Reg. 4.9(3)).

There are two key points to note in relation to recreational and residential facilities.

- (1) They are a work place for persons employed to operate and service them and therefore such persons must not be adversely affected by drugs and alcohol **while they are at work**.
- (2) Persons who are **off duty** (whether employed to work in mining operations or in residential and

recreational facilities) may have in their possession and consume alcohol (and "legitimate" drugs) with the approval of the manager under Regulation 4.7(4) referred to earlier.

It is therefore appropriate for the Manager to issue an authorisation in the form of standing instructions to cover the arrangements at the mine.

In interpreting the application of Regulations such as 4.7, reference is made to Section 18 of the INTERPRETATION ACT - 1984

Section 18: Regard to be had to purpose or object.

In the interpretation of a provision of a written law, a construction that would promote the purpose or object underlying the written law (whether that purpose or object is expressly stated in the written law or not) shall be preferred to a construction that would not promote that purpose or object.

EXPLORATION COMES IN FROM THE COLD

It's official! Exploration Operations and the activities of employees working on exploration operations are now covered by statute.

Section 47 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act, and Regulations 3.1 to 3.9 refer specially to exploration. These sections are required reading for employers, (including contractors) and employees in the exploration field as well as, principal employers and managers of mining operations.

Section 47 provides information on administrative requirements, and corporate responsibility. The regulations (Division 1 - Part 3) have specific requirements in relation to exploration operations dealing with:

- record books;
- provision of information in the notification to the senior inspector (earth disturbing and other operations);
- remedial work;

- employee training and competence including a specific reference to drilling and excavation;
- equipment required by employees; and
- entry into disused mine workings.

Exploration operations are included as a component of mining operations by definition in the Act.

It should be noted that all Regulations which are relevant to any exploration activity will apply, and not just the particular Regulations in Division 1 - Part 3 (Management of Mines).

For further enquires regarding Section 47 contact the District Inspector of Mines for your area.

COMMENCEMENT OR SUSPENSION OF MINING

The new Regulations dealing with the commencement, suspension, recommencement and abandonment of mining operations should be carefully studied by Principal Employers, Managers and all those involved in planning and operating functions. Section 42 of the Act places an onus of responsibility on the principal employer to ensure that either the principal employer or manager notifies the District Inspector of any change in the status of the mine. Evidence needs to be provided that corporate obligations under the Act have been satisfied. The details on how to provide that evidence are given in Regulations 3.10 - 3.16. These Regulations give the general requirements for any notification of mine status and the particular notification required for commencement, suspension, recommencement or abandonment.

Section 42 also requires the District Inspector to visit the mine and verify the written notification provided by the principal employer or manager.

Failure to comply with Section 42 is an offence.

Details on what is required under Section 42(1) are contained in Division 2 of Part 3 (Management of Mines) in the Regulations.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Notification of the commencement of mining operations at a mine must include a Project Management Plan, as outlined in Regulation 3.13.

Note that commencement of mining operations for the purpose of this Regulation will include any major new development or addition to existing operations in a mine. (For example, commencement of underground mining operations at a mine which began with an open cut, or commencement of a treatment plant at a mine which previously transported its ore for treatment elsewhere).

The District Inspector should be consulted if any doubt exists.

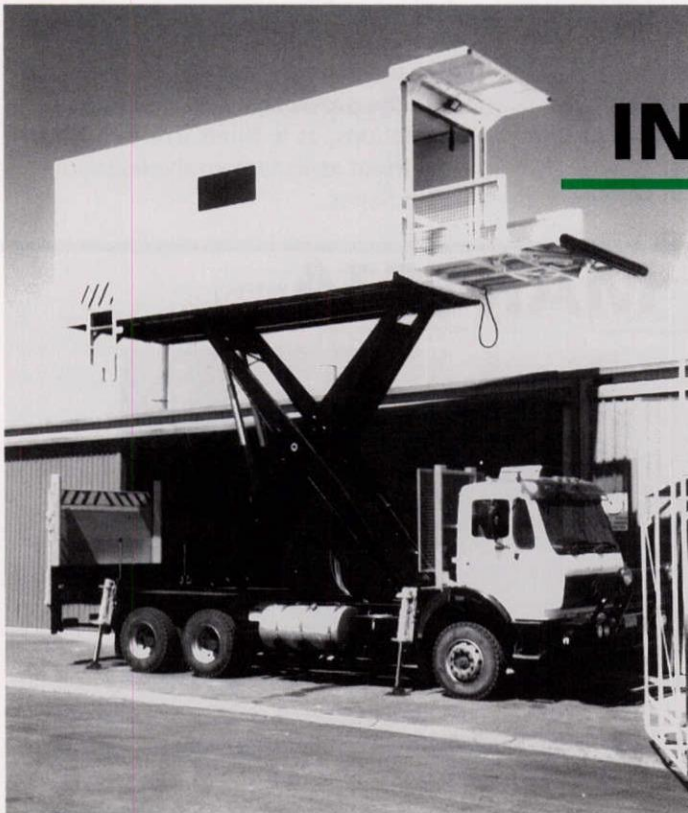
Principal employers and managers should note that "mining operations" under section 42 do not include exploration operations.

Notification of exploration operations is dealt with under Section 47.

The Mining Operations Division will publish a guideline to assist in understanding and meeting the requirements.

Note also, that a Project Management Plan is required prior to the recommencement of a mine with open cut or underground operations which was not being operated immediately before the commencement day of the Act on 9th December 1995.

It should be further noted there is not a process for formal approval by the mining inspectorate of a Project Management Plan. The obligation is to submit the plan as part of the notification process. However approval to commence operations is subject to the approval process attached to environmental management obligations under the Mining Act.



INNOVATION HLMV

Argyle Diamond Mines have had a Hi-Lift Maintenance Vehicle (HLMV) designed and manufactured for the servicing and maintenance of heavy duty equipment such as power shovels and drill rigs. In the past various means of access were utilised for servicing such equipment however not all these systems were suited to the task.

The HLMV is based upon the airline industry catering vehicle with design variations to suit the requirements of the mining industry. The van body is fully equipped with servicing facilities such as welding equipment, work benches, power, lighting and water supply.

For further information contact Fred Strauss
Tel: (09) 222 3529.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) ACT 1995 NO. 53 OF 1995

Attention is drawn to the above Act which was proclaimed (that is, took effect), on 8 December 1995.

In its effect the Act adopts the provisions of the Commonwealth Mutual Recognition Act 1992.

The long title of this Commonwealth Act describes its purpose.

An Act to provide for the recognition within each State and Territory of the Commonwealth of regulatory standards adopted elsewhere in Australia regarding goods and occupations

The main thrust of the Act deals with goods and occupations.

The mutual recognition between States of registered occupations is likely to be the main concern of MINESAFE readers.

The information below is only an outline.

To get a full understanding interested persons should buy a copy of the Western Australian Act from the Government Printer.

However some of the essential elements are outlined here, in respect of occupations.

PART 3 - OCCUPATIONS,

The mutual recognition principle deals with the ability of a person who is registered in connection with an occupation in a State to carry on an equivalent occupation in another State.

For example a person who has a First Class Mine Manager's Certificate of Competency from Queensland is entitled to be registered to practice that occupation in Western Australia.

(It does not entitle the person to be issued with a Western Australian Certificate, but to have his registration recorded and to perform that office in

Western Australia). A general caveat to persons seeking mutual recognition, and to corporations employing them is included at the end of this article.

Persons seeking registration should apply to the registering authority, in accordance with the requirements of the Act. For occupations under the Mines Safety and Inspection Act applications should be directed to the Secretary, Board of Examiners.

"IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE"

Pending registration a person is entitled (after notifying the local registration authority in the correct manner), to carry on the equivalent occupation in the State in which registration is sought.

Section 19 (Notification to local registration authority) deals with the process of registration and what is required of the applicant.

The local registration authority, (in accordance with Section 21), must grant registration within one month, (unless there are grounds for postponement or refusal), and the

registration takes effect from the date the application was lodged.

The provisions for postponement or refusal of registration are covered in Sections 22 and 23 respectively.

In the case of dispute an applicant is deemed to be registered until the matter is resolved, and conditions may be applied.

There is a Tribunal mechanism for

determining the issue of registration at appeal.

General Caveat

Principal employers, employers and persons who wish to pursue occupations requiring certification under the Mines Safety and Inspection Act, by seeking registration under mutual recognition, should ensure that they make themselves fully conversant with the provisions of that Act and its regulations, as it differs in a number of important aspects from the legislation in other States.

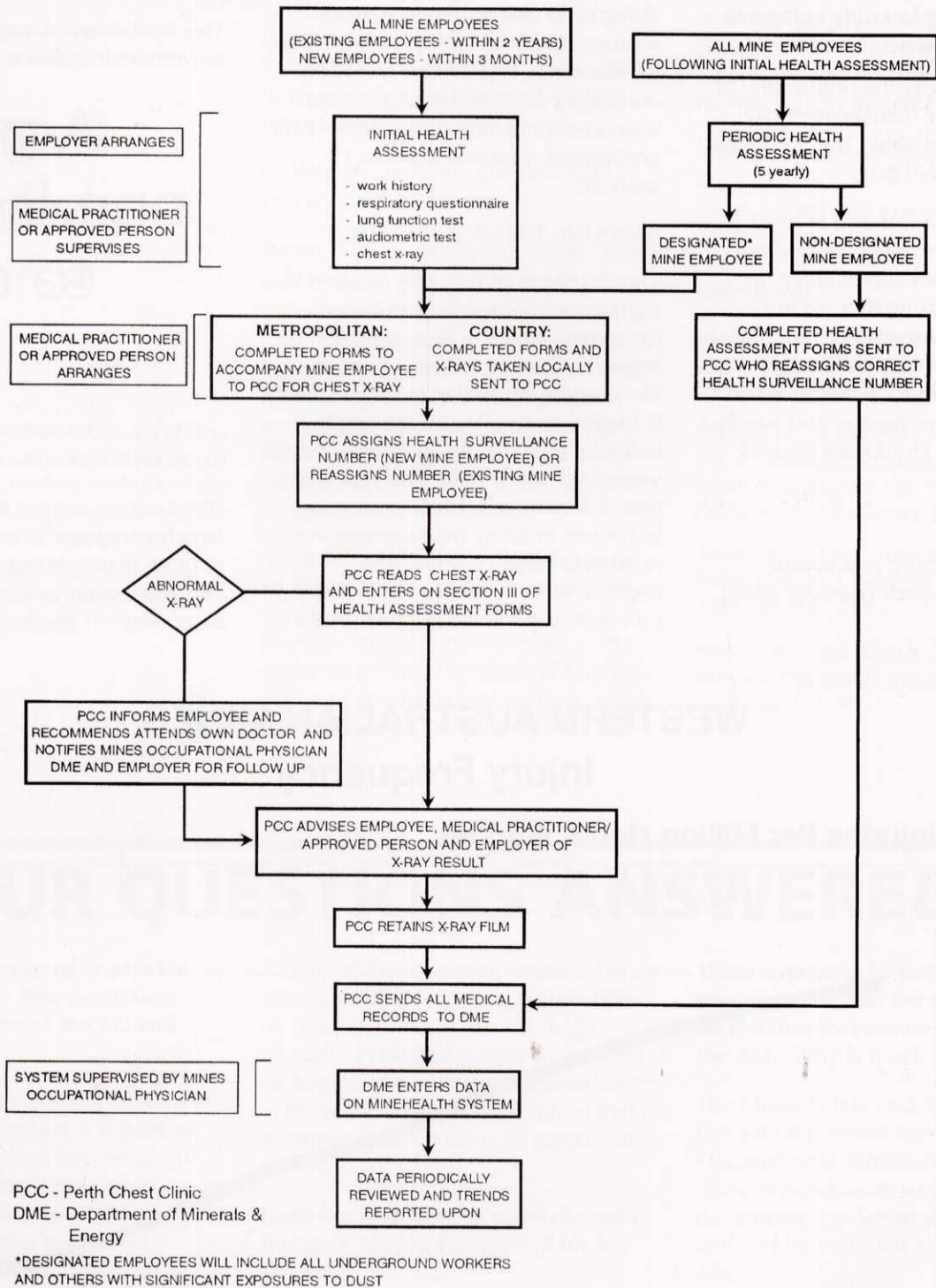
MARCSTA



*Induction Training for potential providers.
South East Metropolitan College of T.A.F.E.*

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH FILE:

Health surveillance program for mine employees



The mine workers health surveillance (MINEHEALTH) system is a statutory program involving the regular assessment of the status of the health of employees in the mining industry. Each employee is required to complete questionnaires relating to employment history and respiratory (breathing) symptoms and to undertake certain medical tests, such as lung function tests, audiometric

(hearing) tests and chest x-rays. The flow chart shows how the system will work.

Please contact the Department of Minerals and Energy's Mines Occupational Physician on (09) 222 3650 if you have any queries or require further information on the MINEHEALTH system.

SAFETY CULTURE - PART ONE

Safety Culture, What is it? How is it measured? How do you change it? This article is one part of a three part series pertaining to safety culture in the mining industry.

During this century the philosophy of health and safety management has changed considerably. The traditional approach assumed that:

"Workers are careless and in need of close supervision. Safety programs should stress work surveillance by supervisors to assure they do not deviate from the company's rules and procedures, correction of unsafe behaviours through the disciplinary process and signs, posters and handout items to remind employees to work safely."

(Begovich, 1994:3)

Now there is a more procedural-engineered approach typically stated as:

"Workers must be protected from themselves. Safety programs should stress development of procedures for doing tasks and training to assure workers do not forget the safe method. All machines, equipment and work areas must have potential accident sources eliminated or neutralised with engineered solutions to protect workers."

(Begovich, 1994:3)

The change in philosophy resulted in a significant improvement in overall safety performance. It is apparent, however, that the safety performance in the Western Australian mining industry is beginning to plateau (see graph below). Thus the above approaches to workplace safety may have reached their full potential. Clearly, new initiatives in safety management are needed to obtain continuous improvement in the mining industry. Overseas experience suggests that a

behaviour and cultural approach to safety may be an effective means to move from an established plateau.

This new safety management movement is gathering momentum,

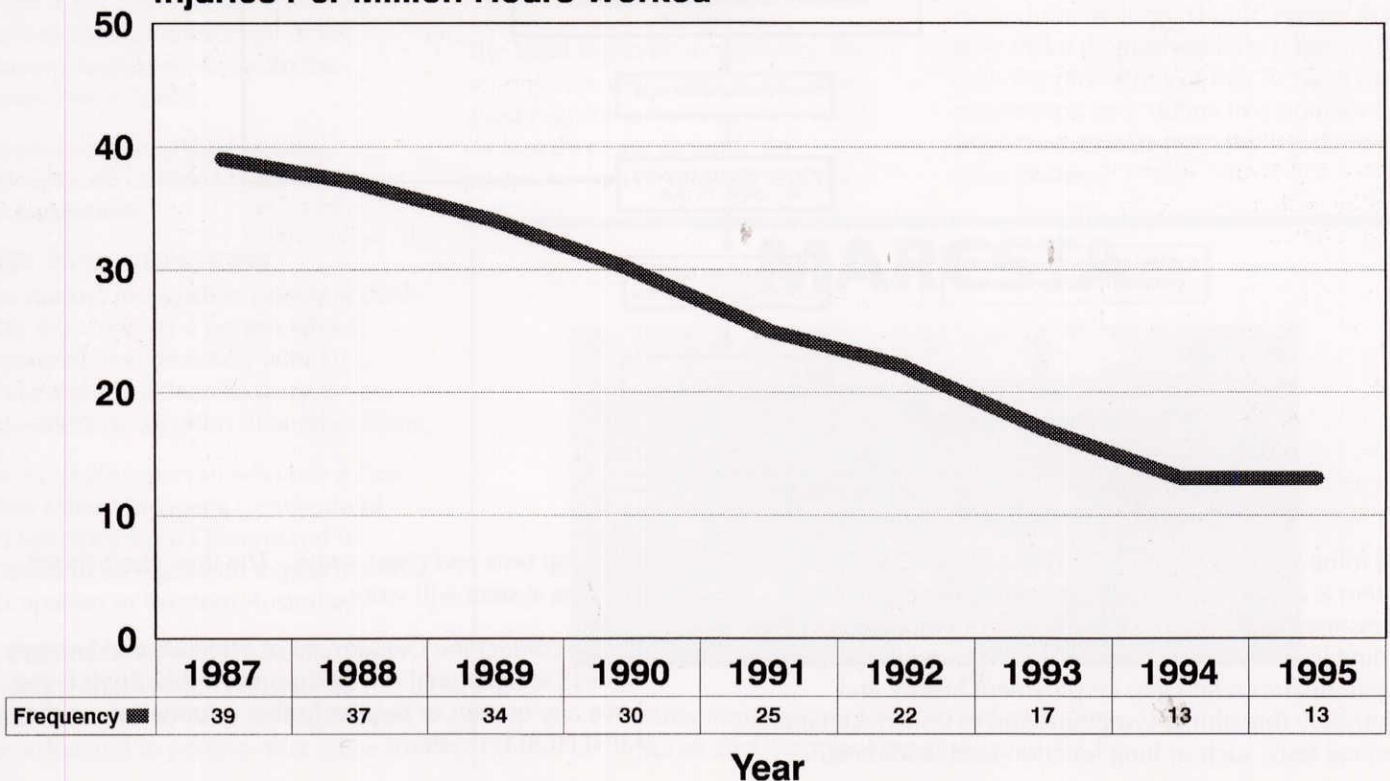
A good safety culture is one that encourages workers to care about their own safety and the safety of others.

and is characterised by a philosophy based on the premise that:

"Workers are mature human beings, largely motivated to work safely through management understanding and adoption of systems related to their psychological needs. Safe behaviour

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINES Injury Frequency

Injuries Per Million Hours Worked



results when they are treated as individuals and given the opportunity to share responsibility for the safety program."

(Begovich, 1994:3)

Creating a behaviour based safety program requires an organisation to

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create a new corporate safety culture which motivates every individual in that organisation; starting with the chief executive officer and going down to the lowest ranked worker. Turner (1991) suggests that a good safety culture is one that encourages workers to care about adverse outcomes.

What is Safety Culture?

So what is safety culture? "Culture" is a term used in organisational behavioural sciences and is defined as:

...a system of shared values and beliefs that produce norms of behaviour. Values (what is important) and beliefs (how things work) interact to cause norms (how we should do things).

(Gibson, Ivancevich and Donnelly, 1985)

Turner (1991) specifically defines safety culture as:

...the specific set of norms, beliefs, roles, attitudes and practices within an organisation which is concerned with minimising exposure of employees, managers, customers, suppliers and members of the general public to conditions considered to be dangerous or injurious.

"Culture" can be difficult to define for an organisation, as it is an intangible concept. A useful analogy in the physical world, is the concept of the centre of gravity. Physicists define the centre of gravity as that point at which the total weight of the body may be

imagined to be concentrated without altering the gravitational effect on the body. In behavioural science, "culture", similarly, is a point that is the result of norms, beliefs and attitudes that may be imagined to concentrate and persist within an organisation. As Waring (1992) notes "culture is not a 'thing' but a complex and dynamic property of human activity systems."

In future issues of MINESAFE we will explore how cultural dimensions can be measured and assessed within an organisation.

References

Begovich, D., 1994. Safescan - An Overview - A Successful Alternative to Packaged Audits. SafetySearch, Perth.

Gibson, J.L., Ivancevich, J.M., Donnelly, J.H., (1985), Organisations Behaviour Structure Processes, (5th ed). Business Publications Inc., Plano.

Turner, B.A., 1991. The Development of a Safety Culture. Chemistry and Industry April, pp 241 - 243.

Waring, A. 1992. Developing a Safety Culture. The Health and Safety Practitioner April. pp. 42 - 44.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED...

Does the company need to provide Safety and Health Representatives (SHRs) with a copy of the Act and Regulations?

This is an instance where the intent of the Act and Regulations is important. Whereas the Act does not specifically state that an Act and Regulations are to be supplied, Section 60 (7) states that "every employer at a mine must provide such facilities and assistance as are necessary or prescribed for the purposes of the performance by SHRs of their functions under this Part." Obviously the SHRs would have difficulty fulfilling the functions of the role unless they had ready access to the legislation.

A copy of the legislation attached to the noticeboard, or photocopied sections on particular issues are not really enough. How that access is provided is an internal decision. A resource centre at the mine may be one solution that overcomes the problem of personnel turnover.

Does the SHR have to officially notify the State Mining Engineer of his/her election?

Yes. The State Mining Engineer must be notified of the election of a SHR within 14 days of the SHR being elected. A form of notification is available from the Department.

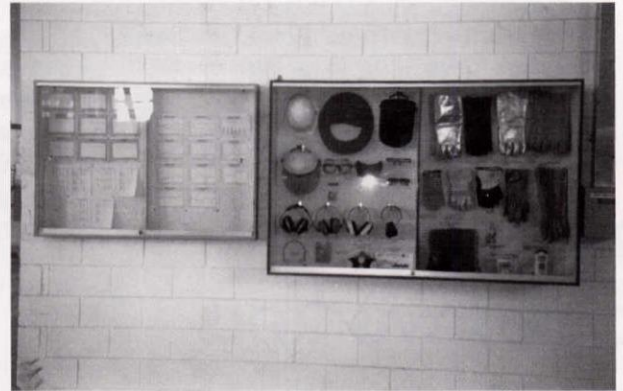
There appear to be some requirements, like the notification of an election that are not in my copy of the Act. Why is that?

The Mines Safety and Inspection Act has adopted recent amendments to the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Those amendments were made AFTER the mining legislation was proclaimed, and will be included in reprints of the Act.

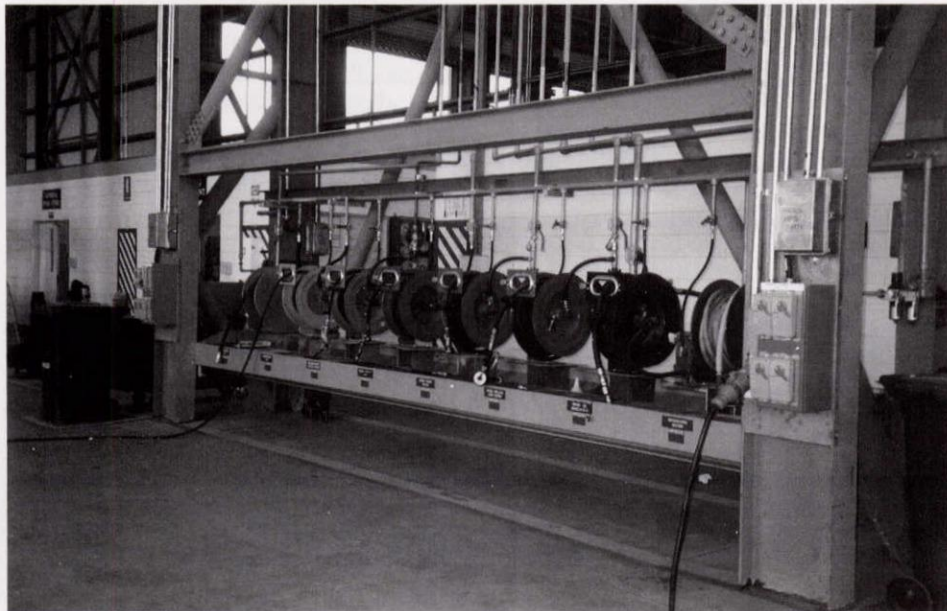
SAFE WORK PRACTICES - ARGLE STYLE



Tool Storage.



P.P.E. Display.



Workshop Service Bay.



Support Stands.



Good Housekeeping.

RECOGNISING THE PROBLEM - OWNING THE SOLUTION

Over the past nine months, CSR READYMIX at the Brockman mine has been developing a comprehensive alcohol and other drug policy and procedures that are aimed at managing any potential problems related to substance abuse. The program involves the employees of Hamersley Iron, Readymix, Roche, Nationwide, SGS Laboratories, and the Site Health and Safety Committee. At the instigation of the Committee, development of the policy was complemented by an Education program that involved all employees and helped them appreciate the immediate and long term effects of substance abuse and its impact at the workplace. Readymix also provided minimal intervention skills training for HSRs, leading hands, foremen, supervisors and managers working at the Brockman Site aimed at helping them to develop a consistent approach to dealing with performance problems that could affect an employees ability to work safely. An Employee Assistance Program is also in place at Brockman.

Employees of the companies have gone one step further and formed a Lifestyle Committee, a concept that is actively promoted and encouraged by the

Registered Manager Dan Tenardi and other senior management personnel on site.

The purpose of the Lifestyle Committee is to provide employees with a wellness program that assists to meet the needs of employees and employers in regard to achieving and maintaining a healthy

Committee. Everyone is learning rapidly about running meetings, setting targets, and community relations issues that are part of the package on a Fly in / Fly out mine! The first project of the Committee was to survey all the camp residents for their ideas about what the Committee should be doing and how they should be doing it.

Commuters regard the mine as their home while they are on site and while nobody is out mowing the lawns on Sundays, one Committee member has taken a great interest in the quadrangle lawn at the Camp, and hopes to turn it into a pleasant spot that people will want to use.

Improvement in communication and understanding between site management and employees makes everyone's life a little bit easier.

active lifestyle. The Committee is also concerned with identifying lifestyle issues and seeking and implementing solutions.

The Committee is a sub-committee of the Health and Safety Committee and also intends to liaise with the mine social club as its activities centre around the Brockman camp rather than the workplace.

Jumping in at the deep end was a first for many of the employees who formed the

The Committee is in its infancy, but travelling well. Because of the active support of management, an immediate benefit is the improvement in communication and understanding between site management and employees which makes everyone's life a little bit easier. Involved employees are learning more about the organisations, organisations are learning more about the employees. Not only will the lifestyle in the camp benefit, but so too will safety in the workplace.

MANUFACTURERS, DESIGNERS, IMPORTERS, SUPPLIERS

HOW THE ACT AND REGULATIONS AFFECT YOU

The duty of care responsibilities of manufacturers, designers, importers and suppliers are already familiar to everyone who worked under the Mines Regulation Amendment Act. **OR ARE THEY?**

Section 14 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994 contains new provisions of which all employees and service providers should be aware:

- Section 14 (1)(c)(iv) has been added and now requires that adequate information is provided with regard to the proper maintenance of the plant.
- Section 14 (3) has implications not only for outside designers and construction personnel but also for on site employees who modify existing structures or build them from scratch. The provision includes temporary structures.
- Section 14 (5) substantially increases the fines for breaches of the Act.

The Act needs to be read with the Regulations so that the far reaching scope of the legislation can be fully appreciated. The Regulations related to plant, substances, electricity and construction work are particularly important, and too detailed to describe in MINESAFE.

While Australian Standards are quoted regularly, there are still many regulations that place an additional onus on manufacturers, designers, importers and suppliers. The Regulations also make specific reference to installers and erectors in addition to detailed directions for manufacturers, designers, importers, suppliers and employers.

Risk assessment is very much the name of the game, and it is through this process that the degree of risk attached to any particular task or component of a task can be properly assessed.

Section 14 is an area where incorrect or inadequate information can be extremely costly. Yes it is true that specifications must be built up to standard, and not down to price. It is

also true that it is not the intention of the Act and Regulations to severely damage the viability of the enterprise by requiring operators to spend thousands or even millions of dollars when the hazard potential does not warrant the expenditure.

The concept of reasonable care will play an important role in the decision making process, and consultation with experts is advisable. In the event that there are problems interpreting the intent of the regulations, your local Inspectorate can assist you.

CONGRATULATIONS

.....to all those people who have been granted certificates of competency since December 1994.

Unfortunately the list of names is too long for MINESAFE to publish. The table below shows the number of people who were granted certificates.

Copies of the list of names are available from Kim Williams Tel: (09) 222 3269 Fax: (09) 325 2280.

First Class Mine Manager's	Underground Supervisor's	Quarry Manager's	Restricted Quarry Manager's	Authorised Mine Surveyor's
43	88	31	49	32

SAFETY MAKES SENSE



CRITICAL INCIDENT REPORTING

CHECKLIST

A walk through Section 11.

	NO	YES	UNSURE
■ Has every person working at the mine been informed about the requirements of Section 11 of the Act?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Does everyone know they must report to their immediate supervisor any potentially serious occurrence that arises in connection with their work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Does everyone know they must report any situation they have reason to believe could constitute a hazard to their immediate supervisor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Does the immediate supervisor of the person reporting (as per the previous two questions) know he/she must convey the information immediately to the manager or designated person?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Does the person making a report know that if an immediate supervisor is not appointed or available he/she must make the report to the Manager of the mine?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Does everyone know that unless a similar report, to his or her knowledge, has already been made, they must report immediately to the Manager any injury or harm to health suffered by any other person in connection with their work at the mine?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Does everyone know that they are committing an offence if they do not report dangerous situations or occurrences in accordance with the Act?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Does everyone know that the maximum penalty for committing this offence is a fine of \$10,000.00?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■ By the way: Does everyone know who their immediate supervisor is?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
■ Are procedures in place to ensure everyone can comply with Section 11?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This checklist is based on the content of Section 11 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994

It is important that every person at the mine is made aware of the requirements of Section 11

REGISTRATION AND STATUTORY INSPECTION OF CLASSIFIED PLANT

The December 1995 issue of MINESAFE contained information about the new plant regulations in the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995. The article stated that certain classified plant must be registered with the State mining engineer, and that particular items of registered classified plant are subject to statutory inspections.

Specifically the new plant regulations require the following items of classified plant to be registered with the State mining engineer:-

- pressure equipment, other than pressure piping and equipment categorised as hazard level A, B, C or D according to the criteria identified in AS 3920: Part 1;
- powered tower cranes;
- lifts;
- building maintenance units;
- powered hoists, with a platform movement in excess of 2.4 metres and designed to lift people;
- work boxes suspended from cranes;
- prefabricated scaffolding;
- boom-type elevating work platforms;
- gantry cranes with a safe working load greater than 5 tonnes, bridge cranes with a safe working load greater than 10 tonnes, and any gantry crane or bridge crane which is designed to handle molten metal or dangerous goods;
- powered vehicle hoists;
- powered mast climbing work platforms; and
- mobile cranes with a safe working load greater than 10 tonnes.

An application for registration of such classified plant must include design calculations, drawings and design verification by an independent person to ensure the plant complies with the relevant Australian Standards. In addition it is advisable under the general duty of care provision that **all newly designed plant** be subject to design verification by an independent person to ensure compliance with the appropriate standards.

For further information contact Mark Butson

Tel: (09) 222 3607.

Schedule 3 in the new regulations lists the maximum time period between inspections for particular items of registered classified plant:

DESCRIPTION OF PLANT	PERIOD
Boilers categorised as hazard level A, B, or C according to the criteria identified in AS 3920: Part 1	2 Years
Pressure Vessels categorised as hazard level A, B or C according to the criteria identified in AS 3920:Part 1, with the exception of:- (a) air or gas receivers with a maximum operating pressure of 210 kPa or less; (b) air or gas receivers that have a capacity not exceeding 0.15 cubic metres; (c) pressure vessels fitted to mobile earthmoving equipment; (d) pressure vessels fitted on a train; (e) gas cylinders covered by AS 2030; (f) serially produced vessels covered by AS 2971; (g) pneumatic loaders of explosives.	3 Years
Tower cranes	Prior to use after each jump or one year whichever is less
Lifts	2 Years
Hoists, with platform movement in excess of 2.4 metres and designed to lift people (Powered)	2 Years
Boom-type elevating work platforms	2 Years
Gantry cranes with a safe working load greater than 5 tonnes or which are designed to handle molten metal or dangerous goods	4 Years
Bridge cranes with a safe working load greater than 10 tonnes or which are designed to handle molten metal or dangerous goods	4 Years
Vehicle hoists	2 Years
Mobile cranes with a safe working load greater than 10 tonnes	2 Years

WHAT'S ON

AUSIMM 1996 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

24 - 28 March, 1996
Perth, Western Australia

Enquires to: Conventions Department,
The Australasian Institute of Mining and
Metallurgy
PO Box 560
CARLTON SOUTH VIC 3053
Tel: (03) 9662 3166
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W.A. CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

Monday, 29 April 1996

- First Class Mine Manager's
- Underground Supervisor's
- Quarry Manager's
- Restricted Quarry Manager's

These written examinations will be based on the new Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994 and the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995.

Interested persons must lodge applications with Kim Williams by FRIDAY, 29 MARCH 1996.

Tel: (09) 222 3269 Fax: (09) 325 2280

SURFACE VENTILATION OFFICER'S COURSE

18-19 July, 1996 7-8 November, 1996

Venue: Department of Minerals and Energy
Level 9, Theatrette
100 Plain Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Enquires can be made to Jim Lawrence
Tel: (09) 222 3095 Fax: (09) 325 2280

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENISTS (AIOH)

15th Annual Conference
1-4 December, 1996

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Perth, Western Australia.

The AIOH annual conference is a major annual event attended by more than 200 persons from around Australia, including hygienists from government, major industry sectors, academia, consulting, and trade organisations.

The conference is preceded by half-day or full-day Continuing Education Seminars (CESs) on the Saturday and Sunday.

For further information contact Mike Rowe
Tel (09) 222 3050 or Alex Calder Tel: (09) 410 3266.

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR GEOMECHANICS

Design & Installation of Offshore Foundations

30-31 May, 1996

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1
University of W.A.
Civil Engineering Department
Fairway Entrance No. 3
NEDLANDS

This course will cover typical geotechnical conditions for facilities founded off the coast of Australia, as well as methods of foundation design.

An Introduction to Rock Mechanics

20-21 June, 1996

Venue: Theatrette, 9th Floor
Mineral House Department of Minerals & Energy
100 Plain Street EAST PERTH

Designed to feature basic rock mechanics principles and their practical applications in the mining industry.

For further information contact Christine Neskudla
Tel: (09) 380 3300 Fax: (09) 380 1130

NEW PUBLICATIONS

1. Handbook for Safe Mining.

The handbook is now with the publisher (C.C.H.) in Sydney, where an editing process is being carried out. It is expected that printing will take place in April and the handbook will be available from C.C.H. during May.

The handbook is important to all involved in mining operations as it is a valuable and practical tool for hazard identification, risk assessment and management.

This publication will be updated on a yearly basis.

2. Approved Procedures: Health Surveillance Program for Mine Employees - January 1996.

INCIDENT ALERT

In a three month period, five people were injured while opening, or working near openings on enclosed systems. In each case a substance (either inherently dangerous or in a dangerous condition) was discharged from within an enclosed system through an opening.

THIRD DEGREE BURNS FROM HOT IRON ORE

In the first incident, iron ore powder (at a temperature of about 500°C) was dislodged from a cyclone above an inspection port during operations to locate a blockage in the plant. The hot powder cascaded out of the port causing severe burns to two of the three workers standing nearby.

GASSED BY SO²

In the second incident a technician suffered a severe respiratory reaction after opening a scrubber hatch (for gas sampling) and being exposed to SO² fumes, caused by the undetected combustion of sulphide concentrates.

SCALDED BY SUPERHEATED STEAM

In the third incident a fitter while removing a mechanical seal from a pressure vessel which had not been properly depressurised, was scalded by a blast of steam and received burns to the arms and legs.

Regulation 7.26 of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995 requires each responsible person at a mine to identify hazardous substances contained in enclosed systems to persons who are potentially at risk of being exposed to that substance.

Both normal or abnormal plant operation can result in potentially injurious substances or conditions existing within an enclosed system, which can remain hazardous despite normal tagging out and isolation.

Protection against these hazards could be provided by procedures for Confined Space Entry, however, these may not be seen by persons to be applicable to the opening of an enclosed system, if entry is not intended.

Closed systems such as vessels, ducts, or pipework, must not be opened until the plant has been isolated, and internal conditions have been identified, made safe if possible, and precautionary measures, including the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, put in place.



STAFF CHANGES

Anil Atri has transferred to the position of Regional Mining Engineer, Perth Inspectorate. Anil previously worked as a District Mining Engineer in Kalgoorlie.

Marek Golinski (Machinery Inspector) has transferred to the Collie Inspectorate and **Mick French** (Machinery Inspector) now works in the Kalgoorlie Inspectorate.

Rob Sherwood has resigned from the position of Workman's Inspector for the Collie Inspectorate.

Welcome to **Patrick Burke** and **Alan Holmes**, who were recruited from South Africa to join the Department as District Mining Engineers (Kalgoorlie Inspectorate).

Congratulations to **Anna Patton (nee De Filippi)**, Technical Officer - Occupational Health, on her recent marriage.


Leaderpress

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