

FACT SHEET

Planned Inspection Program – Explosives

Coal operations

March 2021



Explosives are routinely utilised within coal mining environments and if not stored, handled or used correctly can potentially cause serious and/or fatal injuries to workers. For this reason, where explosives are used at an operation, an explosives control plan must be developed and implemented.

The NSW Resources Regulator is commencing a program of planned inspections and targeted assessments which will be focussing on the criteria below to ensure compliance across the coal mining sector in NSW.



Explosives safety and security

Protect explosives from unintended or uncontrolled detonation, loss, theft and misuse.



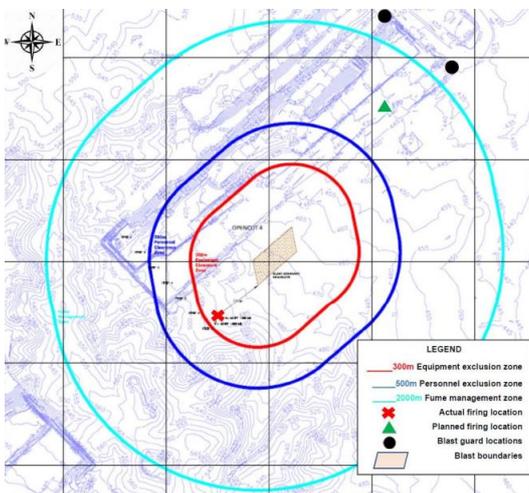
Explosives suitable for application

Ensure explosives are in good condition and are used for approved purposes.



Blast planning and implementation

Blast designs must be done to minimise flyrock, fume and dust generation.



Safe blasting practices

- Ensure people are protected from the effects of blasting.

Considerations

Mine operators should consider the above criteria as a minimum and ensure that such information is included within their respective principal hazard management plans and associated documentation. Following investigations into explosives-related incidents, it is evident that non-compliance to these key control measures have contributed to incident outcomes, which have caused both severe and fatal injuries to workers. When identifying and implementing control measures, mine operators are also reminded to follow the hierarchy of controls to ensure health and safety risks are minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Additional resources

Other relevant safety alerts and bulletins published by the Regulator:

DATE PUBLISHED	REFERENCE	TITLE
Aug 2020	Investigation Report	Dangerous blasting incident
Jan 2019	IIR19-01	Shot firing incident damages vehicles
May 2017	IIR17-08	Dangerous shotfiring incident
Dec 2016	SB16-05	Exposure of copper or copper alloys to ammonium nitrate – TACN formation
Aug 2009	SA09-08	Misfire of explosives
May 2006	SB06-05	Storing explosives

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