EXPLANATORY NOTES TO ASSIST IN INTERPRETING 
COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION 2006

Maintenance of explosion-protected plant in an explosion-protected state

Clause 19 Electrical engineering management plan
(1) The electrical engineering management plan for a coal operation must make provision for the following:

…
(d) the maintenance of explosion-protected plant and installations in an explosion-protected state.

Clarifying points:
1. The explosion-protected properties of electrical plant must be maintained while ever the plant is energised in a hazardous zone.

2. Hazardous zone is defined in the legislation.

3. When explosion-protected electrical plant is energised in a non-hazardous zone it must be maintained in a condition that is safe, suitable for the environment and commensurate with the risks associated with the plant. Before such plant is energised in a hazardous zone it must be verified by a qualified electrical person as complying with the certification or approval or both, and be verified by a qualified electrical person as being in an explosion-protected condition.

4. Plant that was originally explosion protected that has been modified for use in a non-hazardous zone or is no longer certified or approved or for other reasons is not suitable for use in a hazardous zone but remains underground must have all certification and approval markings removed and be prominently marked ‘not explosion protected’ to avoid accidental use in a hazardous zone.