

FACT SHEET

Planned Inspection Program – Entanglement

Underground and surface coal operations

February 2021

Entanglement is a hazard which can occur within various mining environments and has the potential to cause serious and/or fatal injuries to workers if not controlled effectively.

This fact sheet outlines the critical controls for entanglement risks within the coal mining sector and should be considered by mine operators when assessing the risk at their operation.

The NSW Resources Regulator has commenced a program of planned inspections and targeted assessments which will focus on the following critical controls, ensuring compliance across the coal mining industry in NSW. Key categories that will be assessed are:



Equipment safeguarding

Guards prevent people accessing entanglement hazards.



Safe standing zones

People remain a safe distance from unguarded entanglement hazards.



Isolation standards

Prevent equipment starting while people are working near entanglement hazards.



Emergency stops

Enable stopping of the plant in the event a worker becomes entangled.

Considerations

Mine operators should consider the above criteria as a minimum and ensure that relevant information is included within their respective principal hazard management plans and associated documentation.

Following investigations into entanglement related incidents, it is evident that non-compliance with these key control measures have contributed to incident outcomes, which has 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
Nov 2020	Investigation Report	Report into the serious injury of a worker at Appin North Mine
June 2020	Investigation Information Release	Worker's arm injured in belt press filter
Aug 2019	Code of Practice	Managing the risks of plant in the workplace
Sep 2016	Code of Practice	Mechanical engineering control plan

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