

FACT SHEET

Assessment program – Roads or other vehicle operating areas

September 2022



‘Roads or other vehicle operating areas’ is a principal mining hazard that can cause incidents in underground coal mining operations and can place workers at risk if it is not controlled effectively. The risks associated with roads or other vehicle operating areas should be considered in conjunction with other principal hazards on sites.

The NSW Resources Regulator is about to start a program of planned inspections and targeted assessments at underground coal mines focussing on the critical controls associated with roads or other vehicle operating areas. The assessments will be focussed on the following criteria:



Supervision

- Standards are effectively implemented, and rules and procedures are followed.
- Identified controls that protect people from unplanned vehicle interactions include supervision.
- The roads and other vehicle operating area management plan and supporting documents outline responsibilities and accountabilities of supervisors.



Vehicle operating rules and procedures

- Controlled traffic interactions
- Risk assessments are conducted to identify and control the hazards that contribute to unplanned vehicle interactions
- Hazards that may contribute to unplanned vehicle interactions are identified.



Mine design

- Assigned activities are within capability of the vehicle and operator.
- Vehicle roadway layout is considered during mine planning from the point of minimising unplanned vehicle interactions.
- Identified controls that protect people from unplanned vehicle interactions included in mine designs.



Competent operators

- Vehicles are safely and efficiently operated by people who have the knowledge and skills to carry out the task
- Identified controls that protect people from unplanned vehicle interactions include vehicle operator competence
- Vehicle operator competency packages are developed and made available to vehicle operators.



Fit-for-work operators

- Vehicle operators attend work physically and mentally capable of performing their duties and free from the influence of fatigue, alcohol, and other drugs.
- A roads and other vehicle operating areas hazard management plan and associated documents are produced that describe the implementation of operator fitness for work controls.



Vehicle operating area standards

- Provide roads and other vehicle operating areas that support safe vehicle interactions
- A roads and other vehicle operating area principal hazard management plan and associated documents describe the implementation of the road and other vehicle operating areas standards.

Considerations

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

Other relevant safety alerts and bulletins published by the NSW Resources Regulator:

DATE PUBLISHED	REFERENCE	TITLE
October 2021	Planned inspection program	Consolidated report: Roads or other vehicle operating areas - surface coal
August 2021	Planned inspection program	Consolidated report: Roads or other vehicle operating areas – small mines and quarries
September 2021	Planned inspection program	Consolidated report: Managing roads and other vehicle operating areas in the surface metalliferous sector
December 2020	Inspection program report	Managing roads or other vehicle operating areas in the surface coal sector
February 2021	Safety Alert	SA21-02: Unattended haul truck rolls 65 meters
January 2021	Safety Alert	SA21-05: Potential crush point on personnel transport vehicle

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