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**NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

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To:

Mines Rescue Services
Underground Coal Mines
Hire companies
Contract companies
Manufacturers

20 October 2008

Attention:

Subject: Registration of gas detection and monitoring plant and items – Survey of in-use previously approved plant and deeming of design registration

The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation 2001 requires *gas detection and monitoring plant and items* used in underground coal mines to be design registered. Previously approved and currently in use plant may be deemed registered under clause 112 of the OHS regulation 2001.

Approved types of gas detection equipment may continue to be used under the “deeming arrangements” provided there is reasonable equivalence between the previous approval evaluation and the current registration requirements. However some anomalies exist with multigas instruments where some approvals do not mention all sensor types available and these particular sensors may not fulfil the deeming requirements.

In order to facilitate the deeming arrangements the Department is requesting information from underground mines and other interested parties to determine what types of gas detection and monitoring plant and items are currently in use. Accordingly, it is within the interest of the operator, plant hire company and/or contract service to complete the survey so that continuity of service of existing gas detection and monitoring plant and items can be reviewed and confirmed by the “deeming arrangements”.

The attached survey pro-forma, is an outline of the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that is included in the email version of this correspondence and is also available for download from the Department’s website. The pro-forma requests the following information: type of equipment, make, model, number in use, approval number and types of gas sensors, e.g. H2, CH4, O2. Please also provide a copy of the associated approval document for each item of plant. It is expected that there will be at least one approval document per approval number.

It should be noted that although past approvals had no finite validity, design registration introduces periodic review of the plant design, therefore a condition of the design registration “deeming activity” will only apply to previously approved plant designed prior to 23 December 2008 and to plant manufactured before 23 December 2010.

The survey response is required by 30 November 2008 to enable processing prior to the end of the current legislative saving provisions.

A blue ink signature of Rob Regan.

Rob Regan
Director Mine Safety Operations
Chief Inspector of Mines
Chief Inspector of Coal Mines