

Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services

COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2002

COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION 2006

Exemption Order

I, ROBERT REGAN, Chief Inspector under the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002, pursuant to Clause 201 of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Regulation 2006, make the following Exemption Order as specified in the Schedule below.

Dated this 11th day of November 2013.

ROBERT REGAN,
Chief Inspector,
Department of Trade and Investment,
Regional Infrastructure and Services

SCHEDULE

1.0 Exemption

Notice is hereby given to the operator of an underground coal mine that the requirement of Clause 3(1) of the Coal Mines Health and Safety Regulation 2006, which relates to a hazardous zone and states:

“hazardous zone” means:...

- (b) that part of an intake roadway in a ventilation district in a mine that is on the return side of such points as are:...
- (ii) 100 metres from, and on the intake side of, a longwall or shortwall face...”

shall not apply at underground coal mines in so far as it relates to the installation of a longwall or shortwall face in a previously driven roadway.

2.0 Conditions

This exemption shall be subject to the following conditions:

- 2.1 All longwall and shortwall installation roadways shall be deemed to be temporary standing places.
- 2.2 For all parts of a temporary standing place and all parts of roadways from points 100 metres outbye and 100 metres inbye of the temporary standing place the maximum allowable concentration by volume of methane in the current of air shall not exceed 0.25% or such other level above 0.25% as is granted by an existing exemption.
- 2.3 When electrically and mechanically powered plant and equipment is being commissioned or operating all stoppings and seals against any goaf that is adjacent to and within 100 metres of the temporary standing place must be inspected for damage and leakage of methane from the goaf at least once every eight hours.
- 2.4 When electrically and mechanically powered plant and equipment is being commissioned or operating all stoppings and seals against roadways providing access to the temporary standing place and that are within 100 metres of the temporary standing place must be inspected for damage and leakage of methane at least once every eight hours.
- 2.5 Where general body methane concentrations are required to be measured against stoppings and seals, such measurements shall be taken at a point between one and two metres from the stopping or seal.
- 2.6 When electrically and mechanically powered plant and equipment is being commissioned or operating monitoring devices shall be established at appropriate positions to continuously measure the methane content, by volume, of the general body of the ventilation stream in the temporary standing place and a mining official shall inspect the maingate roadway, temporary standing place and tailgate roadway for the presence of methane at least once every four hours.
- 2.7 The temporary standing place shall be freshly stone dusted prior to enacting this exemption. The stone dust in the temporary standing place shall be maintained to the standard required by the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002.
- 2.8 Where explosion protection barriers in the proposed tailgate can be established during the equipment installation phase they shall be correctly rated, loaded and in operable condition prior to enacting this exemption. Where circumstances will not enable the establishment of such barriers, then the tailgate roadway shall be freshly stonedusted prior to enacting this exemption. The stone dust in the tailgate roadway shall be maintained to the standard required by the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002.
- 2.9 The Manager of Mining Engineering shall notify the Inspector forthwith by telephone and in writing within 24 hours if the methane content in the general body of the ventilation stream in the temporary standing place exceeds 0.25 per cent by volume or such other level above 0.25% as is granted by an existing exemption. A series of three readings over a two hour period shall be taken to determine the methane content for the purpose of notifying the inspector.
- 2.10 All temporary standing places shall be shown on a plan that is to be posted at an inspection station located at a point at least 100 metres on the intake side of the commencement of the temporary standing place.
- 2.11 Unless withdrawn earlier this exemption shall have effect for a maximum period of 5 years from its date of publication in the Gazette.
- 2.12 A copy of this exemption shall be provided to the site check inspector for the mine.
- 2.13 A copy of this exemption shall be displayed on the Mine Notice Board for the duration of the exemption.