

Fact sheet

Assessment program – Roads or other vehicle operating areas

January 2023



'Roads or other vehicle operating areas' is a principal mining hazard that can place workers at serious risk if it is not controlled effectively. Mobile plant used in underground coal mines must have physical characteristics to suit the environment in which they work and the type of work they perform. They are large machines with limited visibility for operators due to their low height and the size of load being carried. Their mass also means they do not respond quickly to a change in direction or braking. Risks associated with mobile plant characteristics must be considered in developing control measures for roads or other vehicle operating areas.

The NSW Resources Regulator will 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:



Fit-for-purpose vehicles

- Vehicles safely carry out the functions they were designed to perform over their lifecycle.
- Controls identified to protect people from unplanned vehicle interactions include fit-for-purpose vehicles.
- The roads and other operating area management plans and supporting documents describe the principles that support the procurement and availability of fit-for-purpose vehicles.
- The original equipment manufacturers' recommendations have been considered when identifying the safety critical components.



Collision avoidance systems

- An engineering assessment has been completed on the suitability of available collision avoidance technologies for the range of vehicles and operations in use at the mine.

Operator protective devices



- Vehicle occupants are protected during vehicle interactions.
- Controls identified to protect people from unplanned vehicle interaction impacts include operator protective devices.
- Impacts that may result from unplanned vehicle interactions have been identified.
- The identified operator protective devices are documented in the site safety management system.

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
September 2022	Fact sheet	<u>Assessment program – Roads or other vehicle operating areas</u>
September 2022	Fact sheet	<u>Assessment program – Roads and other vehicle operating areas – underground metalliferous mines</u>
October 2021	Planned inspection program	<u>Consolidated report: Roads or other vehicle operating areas - surface coal</u>
August 2021	Planned inspection program	<u>Consolidated report: Roads or other vehicle operating areas – small mines and quarries</u>
September 2021	Planned inspection program	<u>Consolidated report: Managing roads and other vehicle operating areas in the surface metalliferous sector</u>
December 2020	Inspection program report	<u>Managing roads or other vehicle operating areas in the surface coal sector</u>
September 2021	Safety Alert	<u>SA21-07: Lift arm failure on load haul dump (LHD)</u>
August 2013	Safety Alert	<u>SA13-09: Seatbelt saves forklift driver</u>
July 2022	Compliance priority report	<u>Proximity awareness & collision avoidance technology – Open Cut Coal Mines</u>

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