

Fact sheet

Nomination of mine operator and safety awareness course for small-scale titles

May 2025

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This fact sheet outlines the requirement for the holder of a mineral claim or opal prospecting licence (the holder) to nominate a qualified mine operator. Before starting mining operations, the holder must provide written notification to the Resources Regulator of the nominated mine operator.

The mine operator is the person in charge of the day-to-day working of the opal mine and must have completed the specified safety awareness course in accordance with Section 8 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022.

What this means

Before the commencement of any operations, the holder *must* give notice to the Resources Regulator of who the mine operator will be. This nominated mine operator may be the holder or a different individual. To provide this notice, the holder is to nominate the opal mine operator through form [LR15 – Nomination of opal mine operator](#).

In addition, to be a nominated mine operator, the individual:

- must have, within the period of 5 years before the nomination, completed the specified safety awareness course before performing any mining operations on the claim, or
- must have completed the refresher safety awareness course at least once every 5 years after having completed the initial safety awareness course.

It is the holder's responsibility to ensure that the mine operator has completed the safety awareness courses as required.

What is the safety awareness course?

The Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022 was amended on 11 November 2022 to set out safety training requirements for holders and operators. The safety awareness course is facilitated by the Regulator and covers a range of safety matters specific to opal mining. The safety awareness course specified by the Regulator is the Opal Mining Safety Workshop.



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For information about the training or to enrol please visit www.resources.nsw.gov.au/opalsafetycourse or scan the QR code.

What if I start mining without nominating a qualified operator?

It is a contravention of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022 to start mining operations at an opal mine if a mine operator has not been nominated or if the nominated operator has not completed the specified safety awareness course.

If mining operations are occurring at an opal mine under these circumstances, the Regulator may take enforcement action either through the issuing of notices or penalties. Notices may prohibit any further mining operations on that claim (and any other related claims) until the claim holder nominates a qualified mine operator with the Regulator.

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