

COMPLIANCE PRIORITIES OUTCOMES

July to December 2019

Surface – roads and intersections

Roadway and intersection standards

Issue: Vehicle collisions and rollovers continue to be a source of concern for the NSW Resources Regulator, as indicated by the number of reported incidents in 2019.

Positive communication failures are only one influence that can give rise to collisions. Other issues include road design, surface conditions and entries into hazardous or uninspected areas.

What we did

Twelve sites were assessed between October and December 2019. Areas assessed were:

- the design and construction standards for roads and intersections
- the maintenance of roads and intersection standards
- speed limits and systems that monitor non-compliances
- segregation built into road networks
- traffic management plans around workshops and coal processing areas
- the review of recent site incidents in which road and intersection design were a contributing factor
- site safe parking standards and their implementation
- the control verification activities for roads and intersections.

What we found

The findings below were specific only to some (or one) of the sites:

- windrows restricting visibility for light vehicle drivers at intersections
- compliance monitoring for haul truck ramps and cresting speed were not implemented

- observations in the field of non-compliances to the site vehicle and driving standard
- in-vehicle monitoring system data not monitored and non-compliances not followed up by the mine
- demarcation, signs and windrows were not to the site standard
- processes were not in place to ensure that all vehicle operators were aware of road or traffic management plan changes
- non-compliances with site safe parking standards
- compliance checks for new intersections were not implemented
- shift inspections of work areas were inadequate
- some good examples of sites taking opportunities to segregate heavy and light vehicles
- some good examples of sites restricting the volume of mine traffic and decongesting areas
- permits into active haul circuits were restricted to heavy machinery and direct supervision only.

Outcome

The assessments resulted in the following:

- six section 23 notices issued
- twelve section 191 notices issued.

Next steps

The Regulator will continue to monitor the incident trends in this area to determine whether a broader and deeper assessment of industry practice is required.

Recommendations

To address the continued occurrence of incidents involving vehicle interactions and rollovers, mine operators should:

- ensure that verification processes are in place to measure compliance with site road design and construction procedures
- ensure that supervision arrangements are adequate so that area inspections are detailed enough to identify all the hazards
- implement vehicle speed monitoring, particularly for haul truck ramp and cresting speeds
- review safe parking standards to ensure that the requirements are clearly stated such as mandatory construction and use of designated parking areas
- continue to find opportunities to eliminate unnecessary vehicle interactions onsite through segregation of traffic or permit restrictions.

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2020. You may copy, distribute, display, download and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute Regional NSW as the owner. However, you must obtain permission if you wish to charge others for access to the publication (other than at cost); include the publication in advertising or a product for sale; modify the publication; or republish the publication on a website. You may freely link to the publication on a departmental website.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (May 2020) and may not be accurate, current or complete. The State of New South Wales (including Regional NSW), the author and the publisher take no responsibility, and will accept no liability, for the accuracy, currency, reliability or correctness of any information included in the document (including material provided by third parties). Readers should make their own inquiries and rely on their own advice when making decisions related to material contained in this publication.

DOC19/1101374