

# LEGISLATION UPDATE

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## AMENDMENTS TO THE COAL MINES REGULATIONS

The Coal Mines Amendment Regulation 2003 is about to be gazetted and will come into force three months after that.

This regulation makes a number of amendments to the four regulations made in 1999 under the *Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982*; namely the Coal Mines (General) Regulation 1999, Coal Mines (Investigation) Regulation 1999, Coal Mines (Underground) Regulation 1999, and Coal Mines (Open Cut) Regulation 1999.

The need for these amendments was identified in consultation with employer and employee representatives through the Coal Safety Advisory Committee. They are required to remedy typographical errors and make changes that clarify the intent of existing provisions, whilst other provisions have been updated.

Some of the changes include:

- clarification of existing provisions dealing with mine safety management plans and safety notices for electrical switchgear.
- application of the investigation provisions to declared plants.
- ensuring that the requirement for flexible cables in open cut mines to be referenced to earth applies only to mobile apparatus.
- ensuring that the employment of minors underground at a mine is in accordance with International Labour Organisation Convention 138.
- re-introduction of 'cable arcs' in a hazardous zone as a notifiable incident.

This Update provides only an indication of the changes made to the four coal mines regulations. Mines should ensure they are familiar with the exact changes prior to their commencement.

Following gazettal updated versions of the four regulations will be available on the NSW Government's internet site [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

**FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MR CHRIS ELLICOTT - (02) 9901 8412  
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