

LEGISLATION UPDATE

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REPORTING FAILURE OF EXPLOSION PROTECTION

Through the Coal Mines (Underground) Regulation 1999,

"The in service failure of the explosion protection characteristic of explosion protected apparatus located in a hazardous zone"

is required to be reported to the district inspector and district check inspector.

There has been some difficulty in the interpretation of this requirement and this Legislation Update is intended to assist in resolving that difficulty.

Electrical apparatus is considered to be in service whenever it is energised or intended to be energised as part of the normal day to day mining cycle. In service includes the normal operating, maintenance and re-location of apparatus that is done within the day to day mining cycle.

A "failure of an explosion protection characteristic" is considered to have occurred when explosion protected apparatus is NOT in its explosion protected state as defined in the AS 2380 series of Australian Standards AND requires the replacement or repair of parts to return the apparatus to the explosion protected condition.

Illustrative examples of this are:

- Incendive arcing external to an apparatus enclosure;
- Surface temperatures exceeding 150 degrees C;
- Broken flameproof headlamps on shuttle cars;
- Cables pulled out of glands in flameproof or increased safety enclosures;
- Flameproof enclosures with broken fasteners or damaged flamepaths; or
- Damaged increased safety enclosures where the IP rating has been compromised.

This list of examples is not exhaustive and remaining doubts in the interpretation of the reporting requirement should be taken up with an inspector of electrical engineering..

**FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MR JOHN WAUDBY - 4942 2300
OR YOUR LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES OFFICE:**

Sydney: 9901 8888 Armidale: 6770 2100 Broken Hill: (08) 8080 0625 Cobar: 6836 4392 Gateshead: 4942 2300
Lightning Ridge: 6829 0678 Lithgow: 6351 3052 Orange: 6360 8305 Singleton: 6572 1899 Wollongong: 4227 1699