

SAFETY ALERT



UNPLANNED MOVEMENT CAUSED BY FAULTY TRANSMITTER

INCIDENT

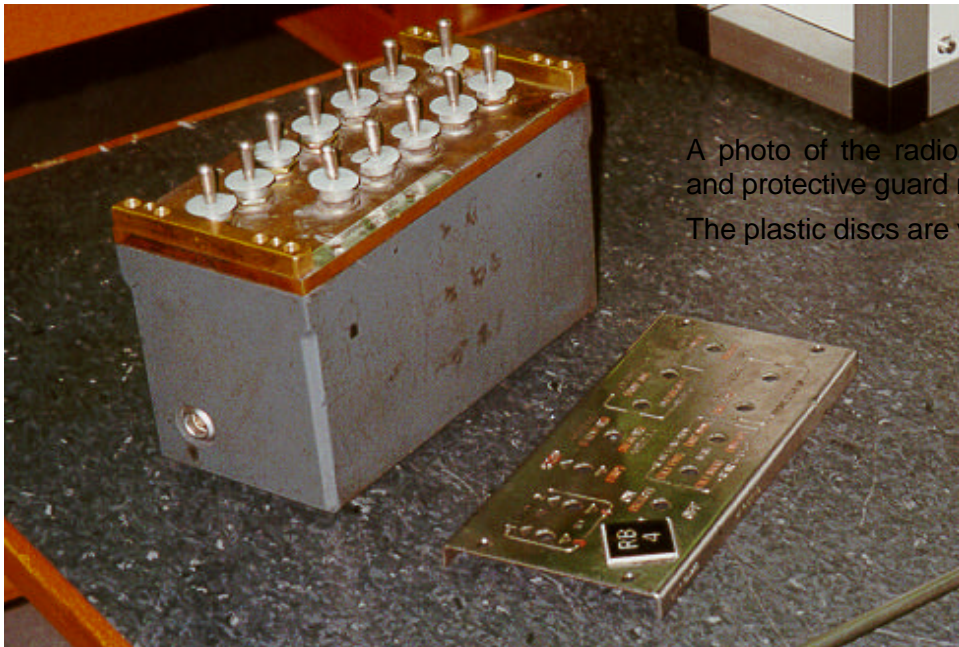
A mobile underground roof bolting machine trammed forward unexpectedly when the operator was attempting to restore power to the machine.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The mobile roof bolter was controlled by a radio remote control device. The operator was using the transmitter to start the hydraulic pump on the machine. Unknown to him the right hand tram switch was stuck in the forward position, causing the machine to suddenly slew forward and to the left as soon as the pump started.

INVESTIGATION

Small plastic discs were recently added to the transmitter between the toggle switches and the top cover to lessen dirt getting into the switch to minimise switch damage. The top cover on the transmitter was slightly indented from a recent impact. The plastic discs on some of the switches were trapped tightly between the top cover and the toggle switch body, effectively anchoring the toggle switch actuator in any position, preventing the spring return to "off" position.



A photo of the radio transmitter with the top cover and protective guard removed.

The plastic discs are visible on the toggle switches.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

End users should carefully examine transmitters for impact damage before issue.

Operators should check transmitter switches prior to use.

Mine managers should satisfy themselves that remote controlled mining equipment complies with Australian Standard AS 4240 "Remote Controls for Mining Equipment" and MDG 5001.

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In addition, operational and maintenance procedures should comply with MDG 5002.

APPROVED

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