

July 2024

Response to stakeholder feedback

Technical reference guide: TRG Strata support bolting plant in underground coal mines

The Resources Regulator circulated the technical reference guide (TRG) Bolting plant in underground coal mines for targeted consultation in February 2024. This document summarises the issues raised by stakeholders and details the Regulator's response.

The feedback has been categorised into themes and the Regulator's responses are set out below:

1. Interaction with the safety management system

A stakeholder suggests mine operators use a relevant principal hazard management plan (PHMP) to manage bolting plan hazard.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator believes a bolting management plan forms part of the safety management system (SMS). The bolting management plan may form part of relevant PHMPs.

2. Hazard identification

Stakeholders suggested adding additional hazards to the list.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has amended the list. Regulator notes that the list is non-exhaustive.

3. Risk assessment

Stakeholders suggested adding additional items to risk assessment list.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has amended the list. Regulator notes that the list is non-exhaustive.

4. Human and organisational factors

A stakeholder has suggested that engineers often develop bolting management plans, and they are not responsible for addressing human and organisational risk factors in this area and the issue should be moved out of risk assessment into general risk management section.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator view is that it is the mine operator's responsibility to ensure human and organisational risk factors are addressed. The mine operator may delegate the process to competent people.

5. Risk control

Stakeholders suggested adding additional items to risk control list.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has amended the list. Regulator notes that the list is non-exhaustive.

6. Information the designer needs

Stakeholders suggested adding additional items to information list.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has amended the list. Regulator notes that the list is non-exhaustive.

7. General design requirements

A Stakeholder suggested design requirements be reviewed by an independent third party.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator does not agree that an independent third-party review is required. Designers may choose third party independent review if they believe it is suitable for the situation.

8. Ergonomics

A Stakeholder suggested that design of the bolt pod not impair the onboard ventilation systems.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has amended the design section to recommend onboard ventilation is not impaired.

9. Stop controls

Stakeholders suggested stop controls be added to the definition section.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has amended the definition section to include stop controls.

10. Automatic operation

A stakeholder has suggested that drill rigs not be able to move again at the end of an automatic cycle.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has amended this section to include the suggestion.

11. Operator protection systems

A stakeholder has queried if permanently supported strata includes gate roads and longwalls.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has clarified that this section only refers to unsupported/temporarily supported roof to allow access to facilitate permanently supporting the relevant roof section.

12. Dry bolting

A stakeholder has suggested this section may incorporate the performance differences between dry and wet bolting.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has clarified that this section only refers to direct worker safety factors associated with dry bolting.

13. Maintenance and repair

Stakeholders have noted that this section does not speak to minimum specifications to allow bolting/drilling equipment to properly install roof or cable bolts and that overhauls must return plant to minimum specifications.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has amended this section to note that machine design functionality must be maintained and that overhauls should return plant to original design specifications at a minimum.

14. General editorial, including legibility and clarity

Stakeholders put forward editorial suggestions on clarity, and legibility of the document.

Resources Regulator response

The Regulator has agreed to address editorial suggestions and make changes where they provide benefit to the document.

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