

Fact sheet

Assessment program – coal surface – roads or other vehicle operating areas

August 2023



The principal mining hazard of roads or other vehicle operating areas can contribute to incidents through various mechanisms at surface coal mining operations and potentially place workers at risk if not controlled effectively. Managing roads or other vehicle operating areas is a key mechanism within this process and should be assessed both individually and cumulatively with other hazards.

The Resources Regulator is commencing a program of planned inspections and targeted assessments at surface coal mines focussing on the critical controls associated with roads or other vehicle operating areas. Stage 2 of the roads or other vehicle operating areas assessment will concentrate on non-production areas.

The assessments will be focussed on the following criteria:

Roads or other vehicle operating areas – principal hazard management plans

The roads and other vehicle operating areas principal hazard management plan and associated documents should specify the:

- construction methodology
- construction materials
- maximum grades
- camber requirements
- drainage requirements
- minimum width
- minimum arc radius
- intersection design - maximises visibility
- intersection design - minimises vehicle interaction
- minimum windrow dimensions and material to be used
- road delineation requirements
- sign placement and visibility
- location and method of protecting services

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- area lighting requirements
- vehicle speed limits
- segregation of light and heavy vehicles
- segregation of vehicles and pedestrians.

Road built to design, inspected and maintained

Road surveys should confirm that mine roads have been built to the requirements of the site road standards. Roads are inspected according to the requirements and remedial work is completed in a timely manner.

Figure 1: Surface coal mine roads will be assessed



Traffic rules

Site traffic rules provide for:

- communicating with the supervisor before entering an area
- positive communication requirements
- pre-movement warnings
- control of personal mobile devices and other distractions
- right of way protocols
- speed limits, including road work areas and changed conditions
- minimum separation distances
- safe park-up requirements
- pit access permitting system
- escorting vehicles not normally in operating areas such as cranes
- providing safe access for visitors and emergency vehicles.

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Figure 2: Assessments will focus on certain criteria



Supervision

The records that indicate supervisors have been familiarised with site standards will be assessed.

TARPs

Trigger action response plans (TARPs) should be in place to manage weather conditions including lightning and the deterioration of road conditions.

Training

The mine has considered the following factors when deciding to issue light vehicle licences:

- The need for the person to retain a licence.
- Maintenance of competence.

Considerations

- Mine operators should consider the above criteria as a minimum and ensure that such information is included within their respective principal hazard management plan and associated documentation.
- Following investigations of previous incidents within the mining industry, it is evident that non-compliance to these key control measures have contributed to incident outcomes, which has caused both severe and fatal injuries to workers.
- When identifying and implementing control measures, mine operators are also reminded to follow the hierarchy of controls to ensure health and safety risks are minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

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Other safety alerts and safety information published by the Regulator:

DATE PUBLISHED	REFERENCE	TITLE
21 July 2023	video	<u>Targeted awareness campaign 2023: Vehicle interactions</u>
3 March 2023	Safety alert	<u>Safety alert SA23-01 Unintended movement of haul truck</u>
October 2022	Safety alert	<u>Safety alert SA22-05 Service brakes fail on moving articulated dump truck</u>
August 2022	Safety bulletin	<u>Safety bulletin SB22-10 Mobile lighting plant at mining workplaces</u>
June 2022	Safety bulletin	<u>Safety bulletin SB22-07 Collisions on overburden dumps</u>
March 2022	Safety bulletin	<u>Safety bulletin SB22-03 Impacts of severe weather on slope stability</u>
September 2021	Safety bulletin	<u>Safety bulletin SB21-06 Human factors – water carts and cabin interfaces</u>
March 2021	Safety bulletin	<u>Safety Bulletin SB21-01 Fires occur while refuelling plant</u>
February 2021	Safety alert	<u>Safety alert SA21-02 Unattended haul truck rolls 65 metres</u>
September 2020	Safety alert	<u>Safety alert SA20-09 Operating mobile plant – incidents and near misses</u>
March 2020	Safety alert	<u>Safety alert SA20-03 Truck tailgate hits worker's head</u>
February 2020	Safety bulletin	<u>Safety bulletin SB20-01 Failure of highwalls, low walls and dumps</u>

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