

FACT SHEET

Planned Inspection Program – Ground or strata failure – Underground metalliferous operations

March 2021



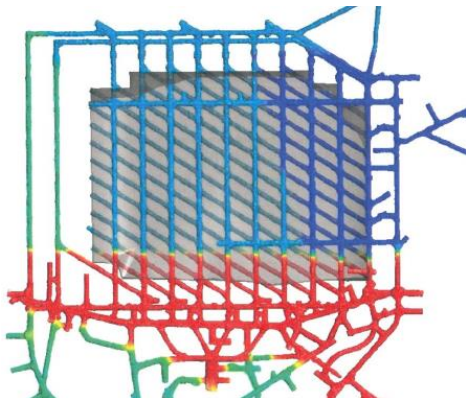
Ground or strata failure is a principal hazard which is prevalent within underground mining environments and can potentially cause serious and/or fatal injuries to workers if not controlled effectively.

The NSW Resources Regulator is commencing a program of planned inspections and targeted assessments which will be focussing on the critical controls identified below and ensuring compliance across the underground metalliferous mining industry in NSW.



Ground characterisation

Accurate geological, hydrogeological and geotechnical information informs mine design and ground support design.



Mine design

Ground or strata performs as predicted.



Ground support

The ground around an excavation remains stable for its design life.

Ground support lifecycle management

Installed ground support continues to perform as designed.



Control access to unsupported ground

Prevent people being injured by a fall of ground or strata.

Manage void formation

The volume of voids is maintained at a level that reduces the risk of airblast, windblast and periodic weighting.

Considerations

In considering the risks associated with strata, mines should consider the above controls as a minimum and ensure that information on how these controls are implemented and maintained is included within their respective principal hazard management plans and associated documentation. Following investigations into strata related incidents, 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, mines are also reminded to follow the hierarchy of controls to ensure health and safety risks are minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

Other relevant safety alerts and bulletins published by the NSW Resources Regulator

DATE PUBLISHED	REFERENCE	TITLE
Sep 2017	Consolidated Report	Consolidated report – Fall of ground risks in NSW underground metalliferous mines

DATE PUBLISHED	REFERENCE	TITLE
Mar 2017	Investigation report	Report into the death of Lee Peters at the Ridgeway Mine, Cadia, NSW on 6 September 2015
Mar 2017	IIR17-02	Strainburst: E26 sublevel cave (SLC) ore drive 8
Sep 2015	IIR15-02	Fatality when crushed in pinch point
Oct 2010	SA10-07	Shotfirer hit by falling shotcrete
Nov 1999	Case Study	Northparkes Air Blast

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