

Information sheet

Project on underground bolting equipment and practices

The following information may further assist you.

Why the project came about

NSW Trade & Investment has agreed to an undertaking between the department, Centennial Myuna and Sandvik Mining & Construction Redhead following an incident in 2008 in which a worker was injured while operating a bolting machine and later died.

What is the project?

It is an industry-wide project to increase awareness and focus on underground mobile machine-mounted bolting equipment hazards. It also aims to improve bolting practices throughout the state's underground coal mine industry.

Helping to improve safety in the industry

There have been a high number of injuries involving machine-mounted roof and rib bolting in recent years. In order to improve bolting equipment and practices across the industry, we encourage your voluntary participation in this project.

What is going to be done?

The companies that are parties to the agreement with the department will carry out the following project activities:

- review NSW Trade & Investment Mine Safety and Coal Services databases on bolting incidents to identify the key areas of safety concern
- develop an evaluation tool using the key areas of safety concern identified in the review
- apply the evaluation tool to review a sample of bolting equipment and practices at all participating NSW operating underground coal mines
- assess the results of the review and develop an industry baseline of data
- provide NSW Trade & Investment Mine Safety with a written report of the results from the industry review that will contain no site identifying information
- provide feedback by way of an individual report to each participating operation on outcomes of the review at their site
- communicate progress and outcomes of the project to the industry.

Note that no individual mines will be identified and all information will remain confidential. The companies will engage independent consultants to carry out the work for the project. The consultants will be approved by the project steering committee.

How will the information be used by Mine Safety?

The project will be industry-wide and aims to increase the awareness and focus on mobile bolting equipment to improve both machinery and practices throughout NSW underground coal mines. Mine Safety will receive the industry report for consideration and will make any recommendations in relation to the report or bolting incidents to the Chief Inspector.

What will happen at each mine?

The independent consultants and project personnel will conduct a practical review of underground mobile bolting machinery that will identify areas for improvement.

With your co-operation and access to the mine sites, mine site equipment and personnel they will review bolting equipment and practices, in particular:

- review the use of bolting equipment on mobile bolters and/or bolter miners;
- include observation of the equipment in use underground;
- at least two operational bolting sections will be reviewed as a sample at each mine. In the case of a mine that only has bolter miners, the newest and oldest machines may be reviewed, if available on the day. In the case where a mine has only mobile bolters, again, the newest and oldest machines may be reviewed. The bolters selected shall be such that they are from the range of bolting rigs in use at the mine (eg oldest, newest, two-handed function, one-handed operation, two-person operation). The intention is not to do two the same. If a wide range of bolting rigs are used then more than two may need to be evaluated;
- talk with at least three people at each mine such as a management team member responsible for bolting operations, a person responsible for the maintenance and service aspects of bolting operations and a bolter operator.

What is the benefit to my mine?

You will be provided with an individual report on outcomes of the review at your mine. This will not be made public nor made available to other participating mines.

The results of your review will enable you to make improvements that will reduce the likelihood and severity of bolting rig injuries. With the aim of zero harm, we hope to achieve this with your help.

An overall report that does not name participating mines will show you industry-wide safety issues that will also assist you to make improvements at your own mine.

A summary of the Agreed Undertaking and a link to the undertaking is available at: www.resources.nsw.gov.au/safety/major-investigations

It is acknowledged and agreed that the companies' ability and obligation to undertake these activities is dependent upon and subject to the co-operation of the owners and/or operators of the various NSW mine sites to enable access to their respective sites, mine site equipment and personnel.

NSW Trade & Investment Mine Safety encourages your participation.

For further enquiries or to discuss your participation please contact the Director Mine Safety Performance Jennifer Nash on 4931 6622 or email jenny.nash@industry.nsw.gov.au

Please confirm your participation with the department's Compliance Officer on 4924 4023, or email, mark.freeman@industry.nsw.gov.au



Reference

<insert Date>

<insert Title, First name, Surname>
<insert organisation's name>
<insert postal address>
<insert suburb> <state> <insert postcode>

Dear <Title> <Surname>

Project on underground bolting equipment and practices

A worker was injured while operating a mobile bolting machine at Centennial's Myuna Colliery on 28 July 2008 and died seven weeks later as a result of a pulmonary thrombo-embolism. Following the incident and investigation, charges were brought against Centennial Myuna Pty Ltd and Sandvik Mining & Construction Redhead Pty Ltd for alleged contraventions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*.

NSW Trade & Investment Mine Safety has agreed to an undertaking between the department, Centennial Myuna and Sandvik Mining & Construction Redhead to carry out an industry-wide project in all 32 of the New South Wales underground coal mines as an alternative to prosecution.

The companies agreed to carry out a project to increase industry awareness and focus on underground mobile machine-mounted bolting equipment hazards and also to improve bolting practices throughout the industry.

The project will broadly consist of an industry review of bolting incident databases. An evaluation tool will be developed focusing on the key areas of safety concern and it will be applied to each of the participating NSW underground mines.

All information gathered will remain confidential. The companies will engage independent consultants to carry out the work for the project.

Mine Safety invites you to participate in this project and would appreciate your utmost co-operation when contacted by the project personnel.

More detailed information is available on the attached sheet.

If you wish to discuss your participation please contact me on 4931 6622 or email jenny.nash@industry.nsw.gov.au

Please confirm your participation with the department's Compliance Officer on 4924 4023, or email, mark.freeman@industry.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Nash
Director Mine Safety Performance