

LEGISLATION UPDATE

No. 6/2000

16 June 2000

AMENDED DIESEL FUEL SPECIFICATION

The specification for diesel fuel pursuant to Clause 69 of the Coal Mines (Underground) Reg 1999 dated 1 September 1999 has been amended. The purpose of the amendment is to remove impediments to the use of low emission fuels which are now readily available.

A copy of the amended specification as gazetted is attached.

The amended specification lists only those properties of diesel fuel identified related to the generation of exhaust emissions that may be deleterious to the health of underground coal mine employees.

These properties are sulphur content and fuel density. Values specified for these properties are lower than the maximum values nominated by Australian Standard AS3570 - Automotive Diesel Fuel.

The minimum flash point of 61.5°C has been retained in order to maintain classification of diesel fuel as a combustible fluid and not a flammable liquid.

Fuel properties as listed in AS3570 other than as referred to above have been deleted from the specification. Mines' management need to determine these properties when negotiating supply of diesel fuel. The following reference material may be of assistance in determination of unspecified properties; eg viscosity, minimum density:

- (1) Guidelines for Minimising Exposure to Diesel Emissions in Underground Coal Mines published by NSW Minerals Council.
- (2) Special Report titled "A Review of Diesel Fuel Quality for the NSW Underground Coal Mining Industry" published November 1999 by the Department (reference MDG1018).

In addition, applicants for approval of diesel engine systems under Clause 13 of the Coal Mines (Underground) Regulation 1999 are advised that the fuel specification to be used for type testing will be included in the revision of Australian Standard AS3584 - Diesel Engines for Use in Underground Coal Mines. It is anticipated that the revised standard will be available before the end of the year.

It is intended to further amend the fuel specification to lower the Sulphur content to a maximum content of **0.05%** to correspond to Federal Government legislation which is expected to be enacted January 2001. This legislation will cover automotive diesel fuel in general.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED FROM MR LEO ROBERTS - (02) 9901 8550
OR YOUR LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES OFFICE:

Sydney: 9901 8888 Armidale: 6770 2100 Broken Hill: (08) 8080 0625 Cobar: 6836 4392 Gateshead: 4942 2300
Lightning Ridge: 6829 0678 Lithgow: 6351 3052 Orange: 6360 8305 Singleton: 6572 1899 Wollongong: 4227 1699

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Department of Mineral Resources

COAL MINES REGULATION ACT 1982

COAL MINES (UNDERGROUND) REGULATION 1999

File No: C92/0155

Date: 1 July 2000

DIESEL FUEL

By this Notice the following requirements are specified for diesel fuel for use in underground mines for the purpose of clause 69 of the Coal Mines (Underground) Regulation 1999:

1. All diesel fuel must comply with the following:
 - (a) the density must not exceed 0.85 kilograms per litre at 15°C when tested in accordance with the American Society for Testing Materials' test ASTM D129-IP61 or the American Society for Testing Materials' test ASTM D4052;
 - b) the flash point must not be less than 61.5°C when tested in accordance with Australian Standard AS 2106 or Australian Standard AS 3570. In the event of a dispute the determination of the flash point by AS 2106 will prevail;
 - c) the sulphur content must not exceed 0.3% by mass when tested in accordance with the American Society for Testing Materials' test ASTM D129-IP61 or the American Society for Testing Materials' test ASTM D2622 - IP336.
3. Only diesel fuel additives which have been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America, may be used.
4. Flammable liquids must not be added to the diesel fuel.
5. The mine mechanical engineer must ensure that sufficient testing of diesel fuel is conducted so as to ensure compliance with this notice. Records of the test program and results must be retained at the mine for a minimum of 2 years.

This Notice supersedes the Notice concerning diesel fuel which appeared in Gazette No. 104 of 10 September 1999.

ROBERT REGAN
CHIEF INSPECTOR OF COAL MINES.

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