

SIMRAC

A MANUAL FOR BEST PRACTICE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

PART 3

A REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY GUIDELINES RELEVANT TO INRUSHES, FIRES, EXPLOSIONS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

Authors: K C Spencer, D M Walters,
T P T Page and A G du Plessis.

**Research
Agency:** Turgis Technology (Pty) Ltd.

**Project No. COL 605
Date: February 2000**

Table of Contents

	Page
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 GUIDELINES FOR CODES OF PRACTICE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY	1
2.1 Ventilating mechanical miner sections. (Directive B7)	1
2.2 Lamprooms, incl. gas detection instruments, SCRSs and lamps. (Directive B 9)	1
2.3 Monitoring SCRSs. (Directive B6)	1
2.4 Refuge bays. (Directive B5)	1
2.5 Prevention of coal dust explosions. (Ref: GME 7/4/118-AC1).....	2
2.6 Draft Guidelines for prevention of flammable gas explosions. (Ref: GME 7/4/118 XYN Vol. 12)	2
3 CONCLUSIONS.....	2

1 Introduction

The relevant guidelines issued by the Department of Minerals and Energy were reviewed in light of the findings given in parts one and two of this report. The earlier guidelines were issued unilaterally by the Department of Minerals and Energy, the later ones were drawn up by a tripartite committee.

The guidelines were found to be comprehensive and covered the subjects in question adequately.

2 Guidelines for Codes of Practice issued by the Department. of Minerals and Energy

The following guidelines were critically reviewed:

2.1 Ventilating mechanical miner sections. (Directive B7)

This guideline was revised by a tripartite working party and consensus was reached on certain modifications. The document appears to be satisfactory in all respects.

2.2 Lamprooms, incl. gas detection instruments, SCSRs and lamps. (Directive B 9)

This guideline was drawn up solely by the DME. Section 5 of this document requires that a variety of test certificates, serial numbers and approvals for the equipment be displayed in the lamproom. It is difficult to see what having them on display will achieve. Having them on the mine available for inspection should be quite adequate.

2.3 Monitoring SCSRs. (Directive B6)

This guideline now appears to be incorporated into directive B9. If this is indeed the case, this should be stated on Directive B 9.

2.4 Refuge bays. (Directive B5)

This guideline was drawn up solely by the DME. It is however comprehensive without being overprescriptive.

2.5 Prevention of coal dust explosions. 7/4/118-AC1)

(Ref: GME

This comprehensive document was drawn up by a tripartite working group. The document appears to be satisfactory. Criticism of the stone dust sampling requirements has been made by the mines. It is felt that the number of samples required was unnecessarily large. Whilst investigation of this issue is not within the terms of reference of this report it would, in light of this criticism, be appropriate that this issue be investigated.

2.6 Draft Guidelines for prevention of flammable gas explosions. (Ref: GME 7/4/118 XYN Vol. 12)

This comprehensive draft document was drawn up by a tripartite working group. The document also appears to be satisfactory.

3 Conclusions

It is our opinion that no further guidelines with respect to emergencies in collieries require to be issued at this stage.

However, should it be decided in the future that further guidelines are required or that the existing guidelines be reviewed, this should be carried out on a tripartite working party basis. It is also felt that the relevant professional associations should either be invited to join the working party or be formally invited to make submissions on the document when it is circulated for comment by interested and affected parties prior to being issued.