



# SAFETY BULLETIN

## Vehicle-mobile plant support stands

### BACKGROUND

A recent incident at a Queensland coal mine has highlighted the need for fit-for-purpose equipment. The mine had purchased a set of support stands that did not include a maximum operating height. There was also no indication on the plant of compliance with any Australian or other standard. Testing by a recognised industry testing agency revealed that the stand's maximum operating height was 700mm, indicating that the stand stability did not comply with Australian Standard *AS/NZS 2538:2004 Vehicle support stands*. The Queensland Department of Mines and Energy – Mines Inspectorate released Safety Alert No 187 on the incident on 18 March 2008.

Download at: ([www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/mining\\_safety\\_health.cfm](http://www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/mining_safety_health.cfm))

Recently, a support stand being used at a NSW coal mine failed while supporting heavy machinery. This incident is currently subject to investigation.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

No Australian Standard exists specifically for support stands for heavy equipment or earthmoving machinery typically in use at mines. However, the principles of *AS/NZS 2538:2004 Vehicle support stands* can be applied. All mines must ensure that equipment purchased, leased or hired is appropriate and fit-for-purpose through the risk management process.

All mines should review Queensland Safety Alert No 187 *Vehicle-mobile plant support stands*.

**NOTE:** Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Bulletin, and are informed of its content and recommendations. This Safety Bulletin should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's notice board.

Signed

**Rob Regan**  
**DIRECTOR, MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH**  
**NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

View more safety alerts at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/safety-alerts](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/safety-alerts). If you would like to receive safety alerts by email, send your contact details to [mine.safetyalert@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mine.safetyalert@dpi.nsw.gov.au)