



Mine Safety LEGISLATION UPDATE

No. 1/2009 (LU09-01)

3 September 2009

First aid administration of methoxyflurane (Penthrane) in NSW mines

Legislation has been amended to permit the possession and use of the analgesic gas methoxyflurane, also known as Penthrane, for first aid in NSW mines from 17 July 2009.

Clause 11 in Appendix C of the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008* covers authorisations for the use of nitrous oxide and methoxyflurane for first aid in mines. Persons authorised to use these gases are persons appointed to provide first aid, under the emergency management system in the case of a coal mine, or in accordance with the emergency plan for other mines.

The emergency management system or emergency plan must detail first aid arrangements and persons competent to provide first aid treatment. To ensure the competence of persons appointed or employed to carry out first aid, where the first aid arrangements include the use of an analgesic gas, they should be adequately trained in the administration of the gas.

General first aid requirements for NSW mines are in clause 20 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001*. This clause refers to a WorkCover approved first aid course. WorkCover has determined that the minimum training requirements are specified in national competencies and that training must be provided by a Registered Training Organisation. Training in the administration of analgesic gas is additional to the competencies for a first aid course (now known as 'apply first aid', previously known as a 'senior first aid certificate'), but included in the competencies for the occupational first aid course.

For more information on requirements for first aid qualifications and training contact WorkCover NSW by phone on 13 10 50 (www.workcover.nsw.gov.au), Coal Services Health (www.coalserviceshealth.com.au) or contact your local Industry and Investment NSW Mine Safety office.

For further information contact your local Industry and Investment NSW, Mine Safety Operations office:

Maitland: 4931 6666 Armidale: 6738 8500 Broken Hill: 08 8088 9300 Cobar: 6836 6000

Lightning Ridge: 6829 9200 Lithgow: 6350 7888 Orange: 6360 5333 Singleton: 6571 8788 Wollongong: 4222 8333