



Review Process for POLYMERIC CHEMICALS and SYSTEMS
for use in NSW underground coal mines

Preliminaries

The following documents are required to demonstrate that a polymeric chemical product and its components have been assessed and found suitable for use in an underground coal mine in NSW:

- Approval or permit from appropriate German Authority* demonstrating suitability for use in underground coal mines in Germany. Copy of full authorisation document in German (signed) and a certified English translation to be supplied to DPI. Note, subject to the discretion of the Chief Inspector the use of the material will be restricted to that given by the German Authority, eg. as strata binder by injection into strata only.
- Certificate from the Mine Safety Technology Centre (MSTC) Thornton advising the material has passed all tests required by DPI and letter from MSTC verifying all general requirements such as provision of a suitable MSDS, no TDI etc., are met.

* of District Government Arnsberg, Department of Mining and Energy in North Rhine-Westphalia

Before a polymeric chemical is used in an underground coal mine in NSW the following process is to be followed, and systems established to the satisfaction of the Chief Inspector:

Risk assessment

- The Supplier must undertake a risk assessment in a manner consistent with MDG 1010. The assessment must include but not be limited to application methods, and transport, storage, handling and clean-up. Equipment for pumping and injection, and product containers must be assessed 'fit for purpose' in a manner consistent with MDG 1010. The risk assessment must be professionally facilitated by a person with appropriate qualifications and experience.
- A written scope for the risk assessment together with a list of team members identifying the skill or expertise they bring to the team must be provided to the Chief Inspector. The scope and risk assessment team must be acceptable to the Chief Inspector prior to assessment commencing.
- The risk assessment team should be selected to ensure one or more members have the necessary level of skill, expertise, and authority in specific areas to meet the project objectives. An acceptable team would include an



independent occupational hygienist or chemist with relevant knowledge of the product, and person/s with knowledge of application procedures and equipment, and person/s with relevant mine related experience/ expertise.

- On completion of the risk assessment it shall be assessed in accordance with MDG 1014 by a panel nominated by the Chief Inspector. A copy of this panel's assessment report is to be provided to the Chief Inspector along with a copy of the risk assessment document.

Establish system

An acceptable system will demonstrate the following:

- Hardware is packaged to reflect risk assessment.
- Procedures and methods incorporate the findings of the risk assessment and requirements of the German Authority approval or permit.
- Training packages are documented.
- Systems, Safe Work Procedures and Audit packages are documented.
- Chemicals purchase agreement is in place with materials sourced from ISO QA supplier. Permit holder certifies that the chemicals purchase agreement is for the supply of chemicals described by (German Authority) Permit.
- All documentation and hardware are available for review/ inspection by the Chief Inspector or his delegate.

Polymeric Chemicals and Systems acceptable to the Chief Inspector shall, in accordance with the CMRA s.63 notice dated 20 December 2000, be used on a trial basis. Requirements for trials are as follows:

Surface trial

This trial is a demonstration to DPI and others of the proposed pumping/ injection system and performance of the proposed chemical/s. MSTC may take samples for testing at its cost. The Chief Inspector may waive the surface trial requirement where the applicant demonstrates relevant experience injecting the same type/s of material with essentially the same pumping system/s.

Initial underground trial

This trial shall be:

- Authorised and conditioned by Chief Inspector.
- Include a monitoring program approved in writing by the manager MSTC
- Compliance with High Risk Activity requirements of CMHSA
- All relevant documents to be made available to DPI, and CFMEU mining representative/s, to give them opportunity to attend the trial.
- Report describing trial and including monitoring results to be provided to Chief Inspector and CFMEU mining representative.



On-going trial status

Subject to initial trial results being acceptable to the Chief Inspector and the s.63 notice applying, trials of the polymeric chemical/ system can continue subject to notification requirements as a high risk activity. The monitoring program is no longer subject to approval from the manager MSTC.
