



SAFETY BULLETIN

Call for increased security when storing explosives

BACKGROUND

Two explosive magazines at a quarry site in southern NSW were recently broken into. A significant amount of explosives, detonators and detonating cord were stolen. Oxy-cutting equipment was used to break into the door of one magazine and the locking mechanism of another. Police are investigating the incident. Both magazines were built to Australian Standard 2187, Part 1.

Stock changes were able to be verified as log books to account for the explosives and detonators were kept within the magazines. This enabled police to determine the exact amount stolen.

SITE SECURITY PLANS

Documented Site Security Plans are required in order to obtain a licence under the Explosives Act 2003 if mines or quarries are storing explosives, detonators or security sensitive dangerous substances such as ammonium nitrate (AN).

ADVICE TO INDUSTRY

Explosives and detonators are to be kept in accordance with the Australian Standard 2187, Part 1 and magazine log books are to be kept in accordance with Australian Standard 2187, Part 4. Ammonium nitrate is to be kept in accordance with Australian Standard 4326-1995.

In view of the recent theft from magazines by the use of an oxy-cutter, industry is advised to review Site Security Plans to ensure security arrangements are in place to minimise the risk of unauthorised people breaking into magazines at any time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Review your Site Security Plans with a view to improving security arrangements to minimise the possibility of unauthorised persons gaining entry to magazines.

Consider:

- Keeping separate copies of details within log books secure and separate to the magazines (so stock records cannot be stolen)
- Carrying out regular checks of magazines by security staff day and night and at weekends
- Constructing magazines out of reinforced concrete and steel being guided by specifications for both materials within the Australian Standard 2187, Part 1
- Installing movement sensitive alarms within magazines and AN storage facilities
- Using electronic locks to access explosive compounds and AN storage facilities
- Locking cupboards containing exploders
- Ensuring magazine keys are numbered and a key register is utilised.
- Ensuring copies of log book details are kept
- Installing closed circuit TV with movement sensors or with direct vision to a control room with both having a means of storing a copy of any movement around magazines.

NOTE: This Safety Bulletin SB06-05 replaces Safety Bulletin SB06-04, which is withdrawn from issue. Safety Bulletin SB06-04 contained an incorrect reference to Australian Standard 1426 in relation to the keeping of ammonium nitrate. The relevant Australian Standard for ammonium nitrate is 4326-1995. Australian Standard 1426, referred to in the now-withdrawn Safety Bulletin SB06-04, relates to a superseded standard for *Steel wire ropes for winding and haulage purposes in mines*.

Signed



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