

Information Request

Ref:

05/0394



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Mine Safe Operations
PO Box 344, Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310
Tel: (02) 4931 6654 Fax: (02) 4931 6790
Email: paul.degruchy@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Title	CMHSA 2002 - Types of Electrical Plant used in Hazardous Zone	
Subtitle	Survey of approved electrical explosion-protected plant in use within a hazardous zone of NSW underground coal workplaces	
Authorised by	J.F. Waudby	Authorisation date 11/07/2007

1. OVERVIEW

Clause 19 of the Coal Mine Health and Safety Regulation, "Electrical engineering management plan" in subclause (1)(c) requires the electrical engineering management plan for a coal operation to make provision for the use of electrical plant only of a Gazetted type in a hazardous zone. The Gazette notice has been included as Annexure 1.

Clause 1.2 of the Gazette notice ratifies the acceptance of explosion protected electrical apparatus that is contained on the Department's Approvals List, within specified conditions. The approvals list may be retrieved from the DPI web site at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/resources/electrical-engineering/DPI-Ex-approval-list.pdf>. An equivalent list in a spreadsheet format is also available at the same web location.

The approvals list still details numerous items that are no longer expected to be in-service at NSW coal mines. Some items have been approved three and half decades ago and it is unclear what scrutiny was applied prior to approval. For this reason Clause 1.2 of the Gazette notice also indicates that the "approval list" will be amended from time-to-time.

Rather than cull the approvals list indiscriminately the Department is seeking input from end-users, hire companies and other interested parties as to the viability of the items on the approval lists. Attached is a template for submissions by end-users, hire-companies and other interested parties to nominate items on the list that are still being used in a hazardous zone.

2. PLANT SURVEY

The template details the current list of primary approvals and has three columns for your input. Please do not alter the format or content of the initial columns of the template as it will not be compatible in the amalgamation process. Where appropriate simply place Y in the column if the equipment is "in-use in a hazardous zone", otherwise leave the column blank. Two other columns are available for completion, i.e. "certificate number" if applicable and estimated "quantity in use".

3. REQUESTED RESPONSE

Your list will need to be returned prior to 31 August 2007, otherwise you will miss the cull process and some items of equipment may be removed from the Department's approval list and so will not comply with the Gazette notice. Also if you know of other hire companies you may wish to forward this correspondence to them, however if you not involved in the end-use or activity of hiring plant (with Ex apparatus items installed) to NSW underground mines you need not reply to this survey. Enquiries should be directed to the Department's contact officer, detailed below.

Regards
Paul de Gruchy
Mine Safety Officer, Electrical Engineering

QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Qu. 1: Is the survey template the complete DPI approvals list?

Ans. 1: No. The survey template contains only the primary approval for the electrical plant items. The survey template is actually a trimmed down version of the full list. To simplify the survey list supplementary and revoked approvals have been removed. A separate full approvals list has also been included so it is possible to confirm the status of approval numbers not in the survey template.

Qu. 2: Can I rely on the survey list and/or the full plant approvals list to be 100% accurate?

Ans. 2: No. The survey list and the full plant approvals list have been generated from information archives and in some cases the information has not been taken from the actual approval documents. Although every effort has been used to make the list accurate, it is likely that errors will be present.

Qu. 3: What action should be taken if an approval number is located on a plant item that is not on the survey list?

Ans. 3: The full plant approvals list has been included as a reference should an approval number be identified on an item of plant that is not detailed in the survey template. Compare the number with full plant list to determine if the plant item refers to an approval where no saving arrangements have been included in legislation. Examples would include non-explosion protected plant, machine approvals, cables and some electrical protection devices. In most instances it will be evident whether the approval should be further investigated.

Qu. 4: What should you do if the plant item does not align with the survey or full plant lists?

Ans. 4: Compare the plant item with the approval documents. If the approval documents confirm the difference with the survey template and full plant list, then list the item in the Sheet 2 template of the survey spreadsheet.