

SAFETY BULLETIN

Brake problems associated with road registered truck use at mines

BACKGROUND

The Queensland Department of Mines and Energy released Safety Bulletin No. 90 on 30 September 2009 about the lack of effective brakes on rigid on-highway trucks being used in off-highway conditions at mines. There have been a number of fatal accidents and serious injuries involving inadequate braking. Most incidents involve trucks used by contractors, and it seems lesser standards are being accepted for some contractors' equipment compared to mines' equipment. Risks are not being controlled to an acceptable level. The abrasive nature of most mining dusts causes rapid wear and can clog the brake chambers on vehicles, leading to brake failures.

See Safety Bulletin No. 90 *Brake problems on on-highway trucks at mines* at www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/mining_safety_health

RECOMMENDATIONS

All mines that allow road registrable trucks to operate on the mine should -

1. Understand the conditions in which the truck will operate, and adhere to the vehicle manufacturer's specification for loads, gradients, etc.
2. Have a competent persons inspect the truck before use at the mine. The inspection should be documented and should ensure that -
 - The truck is in a fit for purpose condition to use.
 - All safety critical systems are functional (brakes, steering, warning systems and operator protection).
 - The truck has been properly maintained.
 - A structural inspection is carried out of the undercarriage, body, suspension, brakes and all other structural areas.
 - The tyres on the mobile plant are in a good condition.
 - A brake test is performed which verifies the truck is capable of stopping on the maximum grades at the mine.
 - Appropriate operator protection is provided.

Refer MDG 15 (as amended)

3. Ensure that the mines maintenance regime for on-highway trucks takes into account the accelerated deterioration rates for tyres, rims, brakes, steering and other safety critical systems when used in off-road mining environments. Off-road mining environments are typically more arduous than on-highway environments.
4. Inspect brake components and test brakes periodically.
5. Employ routine dynamic brake testing as part of a maintenance system that captures brake operation problems and deteriorating performance.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Barraclough". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

William Barraclough
ACTING DIRECTOR, MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH
INDUSTRY & INVESTMENT NSW

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