



Operation of Mines Regulation 212/2011

1. Regulation 1.1 Definitions
 - Revise the definition of a “FACE”. The current definition implies that all exposed rock surfaces constitute the FACE. i.e. floor, walls, back and the actual FACE.
 - Face (mining) –Wikipedia: ***In mining, the face is the surface where the mining work is advancing. In surface mining it is commonly called the pit face, in underground mining a common term is mine face.***
 - Working Face Definition – Resource/Mining Dictionary/Casey Research ***Any place in a mine where material is extracted during a mining cycle.***
 - Face: ***The surface you are drilling in an attempt to advance your drift.***
2. Regulation 1.1 Definitions
 - A definition for “FROZEN CUT” would be useful: ***Frozen Cut – means the first holes blasted in a development round that do not break as intended, but rather shatter and cover over with no explosives visible.***
3. Regulation 6.11 Safety Fuses
 - Safety fuse should not be used in the hole.
4. Regulation 6.13 (1) (a) (iii) Blasting certificates issued by employer – underground or open pit mine
 - Implies that a Mine Inspector may withhold from re-issuing a blasting certificate after 30 days (Reg. 6.14(4)), even though the certificate is issued by the employer, not the Inspector. This discrepancy needs to be addressed. Point #5 is related to this same issue.
5. Regulation 6.13 (5) (c) Blasting Certificates
 - We are experiencing problems in this area. When we pull a worker's blasting certificate for 30 days and notify an inspector, certain inspectors are satisfied with this, but another “dictates” 90 days. As a contractor we can't provide substitute duties for this period of time and the situation usually results in termination.
 - Wording is required to place the onus on the employer for implementing the penalty and number of days and **not** at the discretion of an inspector.
 - There is a need to address issue of suitable work for someone who has lost their blasting ticket. Inspector will not allow a person to drill i.e. install ground support away from a working face. (This is for the employer to determine, not an inspector). Installing ground support does not involve the use or handling of explosives.
6. Regulation 6.18 (k)
 - Use of a “spitter” is obsolete.
7. Regulation 6.40 (1), 14.1 & 14.2 (2) (b)
 - Issues have arisen in the alimak raise due to poor ground conditions where we have had to start installing ground support before the whole face can be fully prepped. Current wording in the regulations does not reflect this. We are suggesting better wording.



8. Regulation 6.21(2)
 - There is no reason why non-water soluble explosives cannot be washed out of a hole. Other jurisdictions allow this and the only difference is when non-soluble explosives are washed out, the remnants have to be picked up and disposed of accordingly. There is no danger associated with washing out any kind of explosive whether it be soluble or non-soluble.
9. Regulation 6.42 (1) (b) Chip Samples
 - Change from 1.5m to **1m** to be consistent with change to drilling practice.
10. Regulation 6.43 (1) (b) & (c) – currently refers to drilling 1.5m from a mishole or suspected mishole (below a muck pile).
 - Change distance to **1m** so that ground support can effectively be installed prior to dealing with any mishole. Screen can be extended to the face (in the back) and rebar can be installed within 1m of any mishole on the face / back holes. The process of installing ground support must take precedence over dealing with a mishole. This is consistent with other jurisdictions.
 - Consistent with requirements of Reg. 14.4(1).
11. Regulation 6.43 (3)
 - A “trace” (barrel) is a trace, so do not differentiate between water soluble and emulsion explosives. This is consistent with other jurisdictions. Crews should be allowed to drill in or close to any ½ barrel, as long as it has been washed and checked.
12. Regulation 13.10 (1) Duty of employer re top of openings.
 - Inadvertent access but if a chain is used and a scoop tram happened to drive through it, it could drive right over the edge of an open stope.
 - There should be something in the regulation to prevent this from happening.
 - Before blasting a slot or leaving an open bench we require a berm to be put at the entrance. There have been fatalities involving scoops going over an edge into an open stope.
13. Regulation 19.12 (1)
 - The employer must ensure that the critical parts of a raise climber are subjected to a thorough inspection, including non-destructive testing, under the supervision of a professional engineer
 - (a) before the raise climber is first put into service;
 - (b) during every major overhaul;
 - (c) at least once in every 4,000 hours of use or every 12 months of use, whichever occurs first; and
 - (d) at the request of a mines inspector.
 - Add the word “of use” following 12 months. There has been some misunderstanding as to the requirement for the 12 month test requirement and is only required after the unit has been put into service, not if the unit has been sitting in storage “unused”, following the thorough inspection & non-destructive testing of the unit.
14. Fall protection (217/2006 14.1 & 212/2011 4.1)
 - Ensure consistency with working at height.