PROMR25
Assist in sealing and unsealing mine areas

Overview

This standard is about sealing off and re-opening areas of a mine. Sealing operations usually occur to prevent access to old workings, but are also used during an emergency situation (e.gs fire, flooding) to contain or nullify the problem.

The standard covers the constructing the seal (solid and non-solid types), and also the process of re-opening the area when it is deemed safe and desirable so to do.

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Performance criteria	Construct seals
You must be able to:	P1 comply with “safe system of work” P2 establish / maintain communications throughout operations P3 carry out environmental monitoring as directed P4 use equipment/tools/services in accordance with manufacturers’ instructions and organisational procedures / instructions. P5 use specified personal protective equipment/respiratory protective equipment correctly P6 carry out trenching activities in accordance with organisational procedures / instructions. P7 check isolation/drainage procedures are carried out prior to disconnecting/removal of cables/pipe ranges. P8 build containment wall/s in accordance with organisational procedures / instructions. P9 install access tubes, pressure balancing and other utility services are installed in compliance with organisational procedures / instructions. P10 infill and “top out” stopping in accordance with organisational procedures / instructions. P11 install additional ventilation as directed P12 take precautionary actions as directed within a fire area before sealing off (e.gs. stone-dusting, erection of water/dust barriers, doors, regulators, methane drainage).
	Re-open seals
You must be able to:	P13 comply with “safe system of work” P14 establish / maintain communications throughout operations P15 carry out environmental monitoring as instructed P16 use equipment/tools/services in accordance with manufacturers’ instructions and organisational procedures / instructions. P17 use specified personal protective equipment/respiratory protective equipment correctly P18 follow procedures for safe entry/inspection/work in the sealed off area P19 install ventilation requirements for stopping sites when preparing to gain access through stoppings. P20 remove stopping and associated services safely and as instructed P21 dispose of removed materials and equipment as instructed

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 principles of sealing off.
K2 organisational procedures / instructions for erecting stoppings.
K3 types of stoppings, their uses and limitations.
K4 factors to consider when selecting a stopping site.
K5 how to identify selected sites for stopping on relevant mine plan.
K6 methods of preparing/constructing stoppings
K7 precautions to take within fire areas before final sealing off.
K8 barometric effects.
K9 specialist tools that may be utilised when constructing stoppings (e.gs. spark proof tools, cutting equipment).
K10 the siting, operation, cleaning of plant/equipment provided for pumping material into stopping.
K11 balancing of pressures.
K12 methods and purpose of sampling atmosphere within a sealed area.
K13 hazards associated with erecting/removing stoppings and control measures.
K14 methods of re-opening.
K15 how to comply with health and safety requirements throughout operations (e.g. manual handling, working at height, coshh, wearing ppe, rpe)
K16 effective methods of communication between relevant personnel.
K17 organisational reporting procedures.
K18 the correct use of monitoring equipment at site when erecting/removing stopping.
K19 methods by which ventilation can be improved near face of stopping during construction/removal.

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