MPQMG39
Deal with misfires

Overview

This standard details the skills, knowledge and understanding required to deal with misfires that occur when shotfiring a blast has taken place. “Misfire” means an occurrence in relation to firing shots during blasting operations where either testing before firing reveals broken continuity which cannot be rectified, or a shot or part of a shot fails to explode when an attempt is made to fire it. The standard covers the identification of a misfire, taking remedial action and recovering the unexploded materials safely.

This standard applies to shotfirers and supervisors responsible for blasting operations. It is applicable in all blasting environments; mining, quarrying, demolition, tunnelling, civil engineering, under water.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 carry out work in accordance with **approved policies, procedures and practices** for the work activity and **blasting environment**
- P2 identify that a misfire has occurred
- P3 identify the cause of the misfire
- P4 notify others that a misfire has occurred
- P5 establish and secure an exclusion zone
- P6 locate and mark the misfire
- P7 agree a method to deal with the misfire that minimises the hazards and risks
- P8 recover and dispose of unexploded **explosive materials**
- P9 maintain the exclusion zone until recovery is confirmed as complete
- P10 report and record misfires

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 the **approved policies, procedures and practices** for the work activity and the **blasting environment**

K2 the hazards and risks associated with misfires and unexploded charges

K3 the responsibilities of yourself and others under legislation in relation to misfires

K4 the types and causes of misfires

K5 the occurrence and causes of desensitisation of certain **explosive materials**

K6 how to reduce the possibility of misfires occurring

K7 the methods to test circuits and to identify the location of faults in circuits

K8 how to inspect following blasting

K9 the indications that a misfire has occurred

K10 how to mark misfires

K11 the methods of dealing with misfires in the **blasting environment**

K12 the causes, hazards and possible effects of premature or accidental initiation

K13 the methods of handling and disposing of recovered **explosive materials**

K14 the requirements and methods for recording and reporting misfires

Additional information

Scope/range

1 **explosive materials**: explosive articles or substances as defined in the Classification and Labelling of Explosives Regulations 1983, or subsequent legislation that supersedes it, as appropriate to the work activity and store

2 **approved policies, procedures and practices**: legislative, organisational, operational, accident or emergency, health and safety, first aid, and environmental as appropriate to the mine, plant or machinery, and work activity

3 **blasting environment**: must provide performance and knowledge evidence in relation to at least one blasting environment: mining, quarrying, demolition, tunnelling, civil engineering, under water

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