



SAFETY BULLETIN

Vehicle-mobile plant support stands

BACKGROUND

A recent incident at a Queensland coal mine has highlighted the need for fit-for-purpose equipment. The mine had purchased a set of support stands that did not include a maximum operating height. There was also no indication on the plant of compliance with any Australian or other standard. Testing by a recognised industry testing agency revealed that the stand's maximum operating height was 700mm, indicating that the stand stability did not comply with Australian Standard *AS/NZS 2538:2004 Vehicle support stands*. The Queensland Department of Mines and Energy – Mines Inspectorate released Safety Alert No 187 on the incident on 18 March 2008.

Download at: (www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/mining_safety_health.cfm)

Recently, a support stand being used at a NSW coal mine failed while supporting heavy machinery. This incident is currently subject to investigation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No Australian Standard exists specifically for support stands for heavy equipment or earthmoving machinery typically in use at mines. However, the principles of *AS/NZS 2538:2004 Vehicle support stands* can be applied. All mines must ensure that equipment purchased, leased or hired is appropriate and fit-for-purpose through the risk management process. All mines should review Queensland Safety Alert No 187 *Vehicle-mobile plant support stands*.

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

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