

MINES REGULATIONS

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

REGULATION

1. Citation.
 2. Ventilation.
 3. Inspection and report by competent person.
 4. Examination of and report on appliances and shafts.
 5. Fencing of entrance.
 6. Inspection of and report on dangerous mine.
 7. Cases in which locked safety lamp to be used.
 8. Conditions to be observed.
 9. License to use explosive substance and circumstances in which to be used.
 10. Fencing and securing of shaft.
 11. Travelling road and working place to be made secure.
 12. Provision of guides and means of communicating signals.
 13. Machine for lowering and raising persons.
 Brake on drum shaft.
 Exposed and dangerous parts of machine to be fenced.
 14. Ladder for ascent and descent.
 15. Books to be provided and kept at office.
 16. Wilful damage or unauthorised removal of appliances.
 17. Directions to be observed.
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MINES REGULATIONS

G.28.10.15.
[G.13.3.30].

made under section 25

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Mines Regulations. Citation.

2. (1) An adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced in every mine to dilute and render harmless noxious gases to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels and workings of the mine and the travelling roads to and from these places shall be in a fit state for working and passing therein. Ventilation.

(2) In mines where safety lamps are required to be used, or when the Senior Inspector of Factories may direct, the quantity of air shall at least once in every month be measured and entered in a book to be kept for the purpose at the mine.

3. (1) A competent person or competent persons appointed by the owner, agent or manager for the purpose, not being contractors for getting minerals in the mine, shall within one hour before the commencement of each shift, and in addition once during each shift, inspect every part of the mine in which workmen are to work or pass during the shift, and shall ascertain the condition thereof, so far as the presence of gas, ventilation, roof and sides and general safety are concerned. Inspection and report by competent person.

(2) No workmen shall be allowed into the mine until it has first been examined and stated to be safe by such competent person.

(3) The inspection shall be made with a locked safety lamp, except in the case of any mine in which inflammable gas has not been found within the preceding twelve months.

(4) A report of each inspection specifying where noxious or inflammable gas (if any) was found present and what defects (if any) in roof or sides and what (if any) other source of danger were or was observed, shall be recorded without delay in a book to be kept at the mine for the purpose, and accessible to the workmen, and such report shall be signed by, and so far as the same does not consist of printed matter shall be in the handwriting of, the person who made the inspection.

LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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www.legalaffairs.gov.tt

56

Chap. 61:03

Minerals

[Subsidiary]

Mines Regulations

Examination of
and report on
appliances and
shafts.

4. A competent person or competent persons appointed by the owner, agent or manager for the purpose, shall, once at least in every twenty-four hours, examine the state of the external parts of the machinery, the state of the guides and conductors in the shafts, and the state of the head gear, ropes, chains and other similar appliances of the mine which are in actual use both above ground and below ground, and shall once at least in every week examine the state of the shafts by which persons ascend or descend; and shall make a true report of the result of such examination; and every such report shall be recorded without delay in a book to be kept at the mine for the purpose, and shall be signed by the person who made the inspection.

Fencing of
entrance.

5. Every entrance to any place which is not in actual use or course of working or extension shall be properly fenced across the whole width of the entrance, so as to prevent persons inadvertently entering the same.

Inspection of
and report on
dangerous mine.

6. If at any time it is found by the person for the time being in charge of the mine or any part thereof, that by reason of inflammable gases prevailing in the mine or in that part thereof, or of any cause whatever, the mine or that part is dangerous, every workman shall be withdrawn from the mine or part so found dangerous, and a competent person appointed for the purpose by the owner, agent or manager shall inspect the mine or part so found dangerous, and if the danger arises from inflammable gas shall inspect the mine or part with a locked safety lamp; and in every case shall make a true report of the condition of the mine or part; and a workman shall not, except in so far as is necessary for enquiring into the cause of danger or for the removal thereof, or for exploration, be re-admitted into the mine, or part so found dangerous, until the same is stated by the person appointed as aforesaid not to be dangerous. Every such report shall be recorded in a book which shall be kept at the mine for the purpose, and shall be signed by the person who made the inspection.

7. No lamp or light other than a locked safety lamp of approved type shall be allowed or used—

Cases in which locked safety lamp to be used.

- (a) in any mine in which there is likely to be any such quantity of inflammable gas as to render the use of naked lights dangerous;
- (b) in any mine approaching a place in which there is likely to be an accumulation of inflammable gas;
- (c) in any mine in which an explosion of gas has caused any personal injury.

8. In any mine in which safety lamps are required to be used the following provisions shall apply:

Conditions to be observed.

- (a) a competent person appointed by the owner, agent or manager for the purpose shall at the surface examine every safety lamp immediately before it is taken into the workings for use, and ascertain it to be in safe working order and securely locked, and such lamps shall not be used until they have been so examined and found in safe working order and securely locked;
- (b) a safety lamp shall not be unlocked in the mine, except with special permit from the Senior Inspector of Factories;
- (c) a person shall not have in his possession any lucifer match or apparatus of any kind for striking a light, nor shall he have in his possession any contrivance for opening the lock of any safety lamp, nor shall he have in his possession any pipe or tobacco or smoking appliance.

9. No explosive substance shall be used in a mine below ground in which the use of a locked safety lamp is required, or which is considered dangerous by nature of its dry and dusty condition, unless a licence permitting its use be obtained from the Senior Inspector of Factories.

License to use explosive substance and circumstances in which to be used.

Any explosive substance shall only be used in the mine below ground as follows:

- (a) it shall not be stored in the mine and it shall not be taken into the mine, except in cartridges in a secure case or canister containing not more than five pounds weight;
- (b) in the process of charging or stemming for blasting, a person shall not use or have in his possession any iron or steel pricker, scraper, charger, tamping rod or stemmer;
- (c) no explosive shall be forcibly pressed into a hole of insufficient size, and when a hole has been charged, the explosive shall not be unrammed, and no hole shall be bored for a charge at a distance of less than twelve inches from any hole where the charge has missed fire;
- (d) all such precautions shall be taken and directions followed as may from time to time be directed by the Senior Inspector of Factories.

Fencing and securing of shaft.

10. The top and all entrances between the top and bottom of every shaft shall be properly fenced.

When the natural strata are not safe, every working shaft shall be securely cased, lined or otherwise made secure.

Travelling road and working place to be made secure.

11. The roof and sides of every travelling road and working place shall be made secure, and a person shall not, unless appointed for the purpose of exploring or repairing, travel or work in any such travelling road or working place which is not so made secure.

Provision of guides and means of communicating signals.

12. Every working shaft in which persons are raised or lowered shall, if exceeding thirty yards in depth, be provided with guides and some proper means of communicating distinct and definite signals from the bottom of the shaft and from every entrance for the time being at work between the surface and the bottom of the shaft to the surface, and from the surface to the bottom of the shaft and to every entrance for the time being at work between the surface and the bottom of the shaft.

13. (1) There shall be attached to every machine worked by steam or mechanical power and used for lowering and raising persons, an adequate brake and a proper indicator (in addition to any marks on the rope), showing to the person who works the machine the position of the cage or bucket in the shaft.

Machine for lowering and raising persons.

(2) If the drum is not on the crank shaft, there shall be an adequate brake on the drum shaft.

Brake on drum shaft.

(3) Every fly wheel and all exposed and dangerous parts of the machinery used in and about the mine shall be kept securely fenced.

Exposed and dangerous parts of machine to be fenced.

14. A ladder permanently used for the ascent and descent of persons in the mine shall not be inclined at an angle less than ten degrees from the vertical or in an overhanging position, and every such ladder shall have substantial platforms at intervals of not more than twenty yards. All ladderways so used shall be securely partitioned off from the winding compartment.

Ladder for ascent and descent.

15. (1) The books mentioned in these Regulations shall be provided by the owner, agent or manager, and the books, or a correct copy thereof, shall be kept at the office at the mine, and the Senior Inspector of Factories and any person employed in the mine or any one having the written authority of the said Inspector or person so employed, may at all reasonable times inspect and take copies of and extracts from any such books; but nothing in these Regulations shall be construed to impose the obligation of keeping any such book or a copy thereof for more than twelve months after the book has ceased to be used for entries therein under these Regulations.

Books to be provided and kept at office.

(2) Any report required to be recorded in a book may be partly in print (including lithograph) and partly in writing.

16. No person shall wilfully damage or without proper authority remove or render useless any fence, place of refuge, safety lamp, guide, conductor, brake, rope, chain, signal, safety valve, steam gauge, water gauge or any other appliance or thing provided in any mine in compliance with these Regulations.

Wilful damage or unauthorised removal of appliances.

LAWS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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60

Chap. 61:03

Minerals

[Subsidiary]

Mines Regulations

Directions to be
observed.

17. Every person shall observe such directions with respect to working as may be given to him with a view to comply with these Regulations.