



26 June 2017

BLASTING AT SURFACE MINES

Extracted from DMR Western Cape Newsletter

The Manager of a surface mine where blasting takes place must ensure that the following regulations are strictly adhered to:

1. Regulation 4.1(1) of the Mine Health and Safety Act requires that the employer must take reasonably practicable measures to ensure the security of explosives. Commercial explosives sourced from mining operations are used for ATM bombings.
2. Regulation 4.2(1)(b) of the Mine Health and Safety Act requires a written procedure to be prepared and implemented to prevent persons from being exposed to the significant risks associated with the receipt, storage and transportation of explosives, including the inadvertent initiation and deterioration of explosives.

A blasting procedure which includes all aspects of the control of explosives for security reasons and all aspects relating to blasting operations including drilling of blast holes, charging and blasting operations and the destruction of old explosives must be covered to ensure the safety and health of persons which may be exposed to the hazards (dust, fumes, fly rock, noise and ground vibrations) of blasting, Regulation 4.6.

3. Competent persons referred to in Regulation 4.4(1) and 4.4(2) are suitably qualified, trained and appointed by the manager.

