

MONTHLY Newsletter

Lead indicators - noise and silica dust

Lead indicators in terms of noise and silica dust, have been defined to track the progress made by the mining industry in achieving the milestones. It has also been identified to provide assistance with regard to the management of occupational hygiene.

The Chief Inspector of Mines (CIOM) issued an instruction in 2007 to all South African mines to report their progress on the achievements of the industry

milestones. Various queries received from the mines, indicates an uncertainty as to what should be reported. The intent of this article is to demystify the reporting required by the Inspectorate.

Lead indicator 1 (noise):

The % of employees exposed to > Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) (85 dB(A) as an 8 hour TWA (based on the total workforce).

This indicator is based on the personal monitoring programme

as per the South African Mines Occupational Hygiene Programme (SAMOHP) Codebook. Readings are taken per homogeneous exposure group (HEG) and allocated to all members within that HEG. Measurements conducted at prescribed frequencies e.g. annually for readings \geq 85 dB(A).

The total number of persons exposed in all HEGs to \geq OEL divided by the total workforce

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Analysis of accidents reported during June 2008

The total number of accidents reported during June 2008 was 256 of which 14 were fatalities and 263 injuries.

The gold sector remains the main contributor to mining related deaths. The performances of the different sectors of mining with respect to the number of fatalities and injuries reported in June 2008 are listed below:

- **Gold sector**
A total of five fatalities and 194 injuries were reported.
- **Platinum sector**
Two fatalities and 19 injuries were reported.

- **Coal sector**
Two fatalities and 21 injuries were reported in the coal sector.
- **Other sector**
Two fatalities and 16 injuries were reported .
The safety performance during June 2008 by accident classification is as follows:
 - **Fall of ground (FOG)**
There were four fatalities and 41 injuries reported
 - **Machinery**
No fatalities and 17 injuries reported
 - **Transportation and mining**
There were four fatalities and 60

injuries reported.

- **General**
There were three fatalities and 114 injuries reported.
- **Conveyance accidents**
There were two injuries reported.
- **Electricity**
There were 10 injuries reported
- **Heat Sickness**
Four miscellaneous injuries were reported.
The general category refers to fatalities caused by accidents as a result of slipping and falling, falling of material/rolling rock, manual handling of material and mineral, falling in or from burning

and scalding and death as a result of exposure to dust, gas and fumes.

The regional performances with respect to the number of fatalities and injuries reported in June 2008 are:

- **Gauteng region**
Five fatalities and 106 injuries were reported during this period.
- **North West region**
Two fatalities and 65 injuries were reported in this region.
- **Free State region**
This region reported one fatality and 34 injuries during this period.

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Getting accepted as a candidate for GCC

A number of recent events, ranging from leaking of examination question papers to uncovering of counterfeit certificates and numerous complaints from stakeholders, have prompted the Mine Health and Safety Inspectorate (MHSI) to review their systems and processes for the administration of the Government Certificates of Competency (GCC). This has revealed that a lot needs to be done to ensure that the integrity of our world renowned GCC is maintained.

It is as a result of this that Examination Commissioners, State Officials, applicants and candidates will be seeing a number of changes that will be introduced for the purpose of improving the service delivery obligations of Government. These changes will assist the Inspectorate to curb the criminal elements that use fraudulent means to acquire Certificates of Competency.

It is therefore very important for the MHSI, which is charged with the responsibility of administering the examinations and issuing of the Certificates of Competency, to ensure that they are administered using the best standards and practices possible.

This article will share valuable information that is mutually beneficial to ensure that the GCC remain to serve their intended purpose. It will furthermore ensure that deserving applicants have a fair opportunity

to become holders of these certificates.

Acceptance Requirements

To be accepted as a candidate, there are a number of requirements that must be met. These requirements are found in the Regulations promulgated in terms of the Minerals Act, 1991 (No. 50 of 1991), which are in force in terms of Schedule 4 of the Mine Health and Safety Act

(MHSA), 1996 (No.29 of 1996). In order to encourage self-learning and also motivated by the fact that these are statutory certificates that require holders to be conversant with legal requirements, prospective candidates are advised to find out what these requirements are and, for clarification and interpretation, the contact details of the desig-

nated officials will be provided at the end of this article.

Procedure for acceptance

One is firstly required to apply to be accepted as a candidate before applying to be examined. These two activities have two separate application forms. To be accepted as a candidate the following steps must be taken:

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	Action to take	Things to avoid
1	You must get an appropriate application form which is available on the DME website or from any DME Regional Office. You may also request a copy of the relevant examination syllabus and rules applying to candidates, all of which are available free of charge. (Regulation 28.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use old forms with the old coat of arms.
2	You must complete ALL the information required in the form, especially your: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> preferred venue to write the examinations contact details signature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not submit an incomplete application form.
3	You must paste uncanceled Revenue Stamps, of the correct value, in the appropriate place on the application form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not sign over the revenue stamps. Do not use ordinary postage stamps. Do not send cash as this is strictly prohibited. It may be construed as bribery. Do not send revenue stamps of higher value than is required. You will lose that money. Do not send revenue stamps of lesser value than is required. Your application will not be processed until the correct value has been received. Do not send revenue stamps on examination application forms which are required for acceptance application forms and vice versa.
4	You must attach all relevant supporting documents such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A certified copy of your identification document. A certified copy of your Official Record of Service. The original letter of sobriety signed by the Mine Manager {Regulation 28.40.1(c)} or Employer, on a company letterhead. Certified copies of all relevant qualifications required for acceptance i.e. relevant diplomas/certificates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not submit COPIES of certified copies. The certification rubber stamp must be the original ink. Do not put the certification rubber stamp at the back of a copy. It must be placed on the front of the copy. Do not submit a COPY of the letter of sobriety. It must be the original on an official letter head. Do not submit an unsigned letter of sobriety. Do not submit unsigned documents. Do not submit illegible copies. Do not submit Records of Service that are not complete or use unconventional abbreviations. (see Conclusion)

Analysis of accidents reported during June 2008

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- **Limpopo / Northern region**
One fatality and seven injuries were reported for this period.
- **Mpumalanga region**
This region had two fatalities and 37 injuries during the reporting period.
- **Northern Cape region**
In this region one fatality and no injuries were reported.
- **Western Cape region**

No fatality and 4 injuries were reported during June 2008.

- **KwaZulu-Natal region**
There were no fatalities and no injuries reported for this period.
- **Eastern Cape region**
There were no fatalities and no injuries reported in this region.

Lock-out Procedures

There were 11 electrical accidents reported during the month of June 2008 which is an indica-

tion of poor lock-out control.

The lock-out procedure is required as per the regulation and the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) has submitted various instructions emphasising the importance of lock out practices. Lock-out procedures must cover all types of equipment that a person is working on to ensure that they are adequately protected.

Batch testing results for Self Contained Self Rescuers

Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of Self Contained Self Rescuers (SCSR) are required to submit to batch testing of their equipment prior to delivering it to the mines. However, it was found that batch test certificates were not submitted to mines for their records.

Mines are requested to keep records of the test certificates of all SCSRs delivered to them. These records must be available in the lamp room for inspection at all times.

Lead indicators - noise and silica dust

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times 100.

In the case where no measurements were conducted within a HEG, the latest available measurement results will be carried over.

Results for the quarter (average for the three months) will be reported as well as the rolling average of the past six months for the previous quarter.

Lead indicator 2 (noise):

Number of machines exceeding 85 dB(A) but not exceeding 110 dB(A)

This indicator is based on the results of the noise baseline assessment and inventory of noise sources with typical emission levels by activity area and constituent workplaces as per directive on area sampling from the CIOM.

Only installed and in use equipment should be reported. This excludes equipment in stores and away for repairs. In cases

where equipment was removed, replaced, silenced or new equipment installed, the noise emissions need to be verified and the inventory list updated.

Results for the quarter (average of three months) will be reported as well as the rolling average of the past six months for the previous quarter.

Lead indicator 3 (noise):

Number of machines exceeding 110 dB(A)

The number of machines producing in excess of 110 dB(A) noise levels determined as per lead indicator 2 above.

Lead indicator A (silica dust):

% of employees exposed to > OEL (0,1 mg/m³) (Based on the total workforce)

This indicator is based on the personal monitoring programme as per the SAMOHP Codebook. Readings taken per HEG are allocated to all members within that HEG and measurements conducted as per prescribed frequencies.

The total number of persons exposed in all HEGs to \geq OEL divided by the total workforce times 100.

In the case where no measurements were conducted within a HEG, the latest available measurement results will be carried over.

Results for the quarter (average for the three months) will be reported as well as the rolling average of the past six months for the previous quarter.

Lead indicator B (silica dust):

% employees exposed to > 50% but < 100% of OEL

As per lead indicator A above expressed as a percentage of employees exposed between 50% and 100% of the OEL.

Lead indicator C (silica dust):

% employees exposed to > 10% but < 50% of OEL

As per lead indicator A above expressed as a percentage of employees exposed between 10% and 50% of the OEL.

Lead indicator D (silica dust):

% of individual personal monitoring results (i.e. each sample taken) that exceeds the OEL (0,1 mg/m³)

This indicator is based on the number of samples taken that exceeds the OEL divided by the number of samples taken times 100 expressed as a percentage. In the case where samples are batched for analysis, the analysis results should be applied to the time weighted average of each individual sample.

Results for the quarter (average for the three months) will be reported as well as the rolling average of the past six months for the previous quarter.

In conclusion, it must be noted that these reports do not replace the reporting requirements of Regulation 9.2(7) of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996 (Act No 29 of 1996).

Getting accepted as a candidate for GCC

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In conclusion

It has been found, in many instances, that Official Records of Service submitted with applications are not compliant with Section 14 of the MHSA, 1996 read with Regulation 4.5 of the Minerals Act, 1991 which is a serious irregularity and also highly prejudicial to employees. Employers must therefore ensure that the Human Resources Departments at mines keep accurate records pertaining to correct occupation categories that employees are/were engaged in.

In order for the Commission of Examiners to determine the appropriateness of the experience of an applicant the following data on the Record of Service submitted is essential:

a) **Name of the MINING OPERATION where the person is employed (not the holding company name).** This is to determine whether the applicant has appro-

priate experience on the class of mine for the Certificate of Competency which is applied for.

- b) **Period of service for each occupation (start and end dates).** This is to determine whether the applicant has adequate experience acceptable to the Commission.
- c) **Occupation (statutory titles must be used where necessary).** This is to clarify the appropriateness of the experience and to minimize confusion as to what responsibilities the applicant held. For example, occupations such as Operator, Panel Supervisor and Shift Overseer are frequently inadequate for the Commission to determine whether the applicant has the required mining experience.
- d) **Total shifts per occupation.** Shifts used for completing any tertiary qualifications are not considered as experience (Regulation 28.14.4).

Diarize the following:

September 2008

- 05: Closing date of acceptance for October 2008 examinations for Mine Managers
- 05: Commission meeting for final moderation and acceptance for October 2008 examination papers for Mine Surveyors
- 05: Mine Health and Safety Summit
- 08-12: Electra Mining (Mining Week)
- 19: Closing date for enrolment of Engineers with the Department of Education

October 2008

- 09-10: Conducting of October 2008 examinations for Mine Surveyors
- 14-17: Conducting of October 2008 examinations for Mine Managers

November 2008

- 07: Closing date for submission by examiners of mark sheets for October 2008 examinations for Mine Surveyors.
- 14: Closing date for submission by examiners of mark sheets for October 2008 examinations for Mine Managers.
- 20: Legal knowledge examinations for Mine Engineers.
- 21: Commission meeting for determining the final results for October 2008 examinations for Mine Surveyors.
- 25: Commission meeting for determining the final results for October 2008 examinations for Mine Managers and allocation of examiners for May 2009 examinations.
- 26: Availability of October examinations results for Mine Managers.
- 26: Plant Engineering examinations
- 28: Availability of examination results for Mine Surveyors.

Declaration of intent on HIV and AIDS and questionnaire

The 2003 Mining Industry Tripartite HIV and AIDS Summit saw the commitment of the State, business and labour to a common cause of combating the scourge of HIV and AIDS through the Declaration of Intent. This declaration embraces ten statements of commitment. One of these commitments is the implementation of a HIV and AIDS policy and programme at every workplace in the South African mining industry by the end of 2004.

These policies and programmes aim to encourage openness about the disease. Furthermore they aim to reduce the stigmatization, discrimination and prejudice against mine workers who are infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

The Inspectorate has since conducted a survey to determine the challenges with regard to the implementation of these commitments. Only 250 mines responded to the original amount of 501 questionnaires. The report

on the outcomes of the survey was presented at the 2006 Mining Industry HIV and AIDS Summit.

The key focus areas are prevention, treatment, care and support, research, monitoring and evaluation as well as socio-economic development.

Challenges were identified post the conducting of the survey. These include the deliberations from focus groups at the summit. The mines that participated in the survey included a few small-

scale mines.

Although the 50% response rate to the survey was good, it does not reflect well on the fulfilment of the commitments made by the mining sector stakeholders in the Declaration of 2003. With a view to addressing the challenges, the Mining Industry Tripartite HIV and AIDS Committee has developed an implementation plan. In essence, this plan seeks to close implementation gaps on HIV and AIDS related issues in the mining industry.

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