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Self rescuer inspections and maintenance

This safety alert provides safety advice for the NSW mining industry.

Issue

During scheduled testing of 2016 Draeger Oxyboks K 25 AU chemical oxygen self rescuers, the Mine Safety Technology Centre identified an issue where the moisture inspection windows had an accumulation of dust, making it impossible to detect a change in the moisture indicators. As a result of this, users of the self rescuers would not be able to correctly undertake pre-use checks and consequently the self rescuers should not have been used.

Photo 1: Dirt obscuring the moisture indicator.



Photo 2: Clean window with moisture indicator visible.



Recommendations

1. Mine workers must inspect their self rescuers for damage, temperature effects or moisture ingress. Where a defect is found, it must be placed out of service and not used.
2. Mine operators must have a maintenance strategy and schedule in place for the routine inspection and maintenance of self rescuers. This includes repairing self rescuers in accordance with original equipment manufacturer (OEM) manuals and recommendations as well as a system of verification that operators are performing the checks correctly.
3. Training and refresher training must be provided to workers in order for them to perform self rescuer pre-use inspections.

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.

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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information on which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Department of Planning and Environment or the user’s independent advisor.

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