1960 No. 1114

The Coal Mines (Compressed Air Blasting Shells) Regulations, 1960

Made - - - -	28*th June*, 1960
Laid before Parliament	5*th July*, 1960
Coming into Operation	1*st August*, 1960

The Minister of Power in pursuance of the powers conferred upon him by sections sixty-nine and one hundred and forty-one of the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954(a), and of all other powers him enabling hereby orders that the following regulations shall have effect :—

Commencement and citation

1. These regulations shall come into operation on the first day of August nineteen hundred and sixty, and may be cited as the Coal Mines (Compressed Air Blasting Shells) Regulations, 1960.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations the expressions "mine" and "shell" have the meanings assigned thereto in regulation three.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(b), shall apply to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Application

3. The provisions of these regulations shall apply to the use of any blasting device comprising a chamber into which air is charged at high pressure and from which that air is suddenly released (hereinafter referred to as a "shell") at every mine of coal, and in these regulations "mine" means such a mine.

Exemptions

4. An inspector may by notice served on the manager of a mine exempt the mine or part thereof, or any thing or class of things thereat, from the application of any provision of these regulations if he is satisfied that the safety of persons employed at the mine will not be prejudiced in consequence of the granting of the exemption.

Appointment and qualifications of persons to discharge shells

5. No person shall discharge any shell in a mine unless he has been appointed to do so by the manager of that mine and is a person who is, or is qualified to be appointed, a shot firer at that mine.

(a) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 70. (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

Charging holes with shells

6. No person shall insert a shell into a hole unless he has satisfied himself by taking all reasonable precautions that the hole is so placed that the discharge of the shell will not endanger any person, and so drilled as to enable the shell to be inserted without using undue force.

Key to control valve

7. No shell shall be charged with air except through a control valve which is so constructed that it cannot be operated except by a removable key designed especially for the purpose.

8. The person appointed to discharge any shell shall retain in his possession the key to the control valve thereof throughout the period during which he is on duty.

Procedure before discharge

9.—(1) No person shall discharge a shell in either a mine in any part of which the use of lamps or lights, other than permitted lights, is unlawful, or any part of a mine, being a part in which safety lamps are for the time being in use by way of temporary precaution, unless he has carried out immediately before the discharge tests for the presence of inflammable gas—

(*a*) at the mouth of the hole in which the shell has been placed; and

(*b*) in every accessible cavity in the roof in the vicinity of the hole:

Provided that where a person discharges a group of shells, not exceeding six in number, in succession and as rapidly as is practicable by operating separate but adjacent control valves, that person may make all the tests required to be made by this paragraph in respect of each shell in the group immediately before he commences to discharge the group of shells.

(2) Every test made pursuant to the preceding paragraph shall be made with a locked flame safety-lamp of a type approved by the Minister for the purpose of deputies' inspections, a methanometer of a type approved by the Minister or other apparatus of a type approved by the Minister for the purpose.

(3) No person shall discharge a shell if on any such test made with respect to it he finds a percentage by volume of inflammable gas exceeding one and a quarter or he can see an indication of gas on the lowered flame of a safety lamp.

10. No shear disc, shear pin or similar thing shall be—

(*a*) used in connection with any shell unless it has been provided for such use by the owner of the mine;

(*b*) fitted into a shell below ground until the shell is about to be inserted into a hole;

(*c*) so fitted below ground by any person other than a person appointed to discharge a shell or a person being trained for that purpose and acting under the supervision of such a person.

Warning and shelter

11. In every case where the discharge of a shell may result in a blowing through into another place, the person about to discharge the shell shall cause due warning to be given to all persons in that place, and he shall after discharging the shell cause notice to be given to them that the period of danger is ended.

12.—(1) Any person about to discharge a shell shall determine the danger zone likely to be created.

(2) No person shall discharge a shell unless he has—

(*a*) at each entrance to that danger zone either posted a sentry or placed an appropriate fence conspicuously marked with the words "danger" and "shot firing";

(*b*) ensured that all persons have withdrawn from that zone or have taken proper shelter; and

(*c*) himself taken proper shelter.

13.—(1) No person who has been posted as a sentry by a person about to discharge a shell shall leave the place where he was posted unless personally directed to do so by that person.

(2) No person shall pass a danger sign exhibited for the purposes of the last preceding regulation without the authority of the person discharging the shell or shall pass a sentry who has forbidden him to do so.

Precautions after discharging a shell

14. Every person who has discharged a shell shall—

(*a*) ascertain by personal examination whether ordinary working can be safely resumed in each working place affected by that discharge; and

(*b*) ensure that any necessary action is taken to make each such place safe for such working.

Failure to discharge

15. If any shell fails to discharge, no person shall approach it until the person who attempted to discharge it has released the compressed air contained therein by means of the control valve connected therewith, and is satisfied that such air has been released.

Cleaning and lubrication

16. No person shall use any inflammable oil or any inflammable grease for cleaning or lubricating any shell.

Dated this twenty-eighth day of June, nineteen hundred and sixty.

Richard Wood,
Minister of Power.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations, which are made by the Minister of Power under sections sixty-nine and one hundred and forty-one of the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954, apply to the use at coal mines of blasting devices which depend for their action on the sudden discharge of air from a chamber into which the

air has been previously charged at a high pressure (such blasting devices being referred to in the regulations as "shells"). An inspector is given power (reg. 4) to exempt any mine or part of a mine or anything at a mine from the application of any provision of the regulations, if he is satisfied that the safety of persons employed at the mine will not be prejudiced thereby.

Regulation 5 prohibits a person discharging a shell unless he has been appointed for the purpose by the manager of the mine and is, or is qualified to be appointed, a shot firer at the mine.

Regulation 6 prohibits a person charging a hole with a shell unless the hole complies with certain requirements.

Regulation 7 requires that each shell shall be charged through a control valve to be operated only by a special, removable key. Regulation 8 requires that the person appointed to discharge the shell shall keep the key in his possession throughout the period during which he is on duty.

Regulation 9 requires that before a shell is discharged in certain mines or certain parts of mines tests for the presence of inflammable gas shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the regulation. Paragraph (3) prohibits a person discharging a shell if a test reveals more than a certain percentage of gas.

Regulation 10 regulates the use of shear discs, shear pins and other similar things.

Regulation 11 requires that due warning shall be given to persons likely to be affected by a "blow through" caused by the discharge of a shell. Regulation 12 specifies the precautions to be taken by a person about to discharge a shell. Regulation 13 deals with the duties of sentries and persons in the vicinity.

Regulation 14 requires every person who has discharged a shell to ascertain whether, and ensure that, each working place affected by the discharge is safe for the resumption of normal working.

Regulation 15 requires certain precautions to be taken if a shell fails to discharge.

Regulation 16 prohibits the use of inflammable oil or grease for cleaning or lubricating shells.