

MIN/2020/5290
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Guidance note: Resources Safety and Health compliance and enforcement (COVID-19 emergency)

Context and purpose

On 29 January 2020, under the *Public Health Act 2005*, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services made an order declaring a public health emergency in relation to coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The purpose of this note is to provide guidance about Resources Safety and Health's (RSH) compliance and enforcement approach during the COVID-19 emergency. It is to be read with the [Resources Safety and Health compliance policy](#) (the compliance policy).

The note recognises that the COVID-19 emergency may, in some circumstances, present challenges to regulated entities in strictly complying with some statutory requirements.

This may be a result of:

- a lack of, or limited, availability of required services due to the emergency
- ensuring social distancing and other protective measures in place to respond the emergency
- other matters unique to the COVID-19 emergency.

Principles

Consistent with the compliance policy, when determining whether or not to take compliance or enforcement action, a key consideration for RSH is whether the level of risk of injury or illness to workers and others as a result of regulated activities is acceptable.

In considering this, RSH's compliance and enforcement decision-making will have regard to:

- risk assessments carried out by the regulated entity
- controls implemented by the regulated entity to manage risks
- steps the regulated entity has taken to attempt to achieve strict compliance
- practical impacts of the COVID-19 emergency
- where strict compliance has not been achieved, what steps the regulated entity has identified they will take to address this
- any other relevant matters.

Advice

Industry engagement is an important part of our compliance approach. If, due to the impacts of COVID-19 emergency, you experience difficulty meeting your obligations (e.g. training, exposure monitoring) – please contact us as soon as possible for advice.

Coal mines

- General enquiries: [Contact your Regional Inspectorate staff](#)
- Report incidents or illness: Regional Inspectorate staff, or call 1300 882 096
- Emergencies: Regional Inspectorate staff, or call 1300 882 096

Mineral mines and quarries

- General enquiries: [Contact your Regional Inspectorate staff](#)
- Report incidents or illness: Townsville: (07) 4447 9282; Mt Isa: (07) 4745 4117; Brisbane: (07) 3330 4273
- Emergency: Townsville: (07) 4447 9282; Mt Isa: (07) 4745 4117; Brisbane: (07) 3330 4273

Explosives

- General enquiries: explosives@dnrme.qld.gov.au
- Report incidents or illness: 1300 739 868
- Emergency: 1300 739 868

Petroleum and Gas

- General enquiries: gassafe@dnrme.qld.gov.au
- Report incidents or illness: 1300 910 933
- Emergencies: 1300 910 933

Occupational Health and Hygiene

- For advice on health surveillance requirements contact: HSU@dnrme.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3818 5420
- For advice on mine dust lung disease call: 1300 445 715