

Australian Industry **6Z**WELD

WINS!

WTIA National Diffusion Networks
Project (NDNP) funded by the
Federal and State and Territory
Governments and industry



AusIndustry

SUCCESS STORY NUMBER M01: SAFE CUTTING AND WELDING IN MINES – NSW
Government and WTIA work together to improve mine safety throughout the country.

The Story

Welding and related activities can be regarded as amongst the most hazardous undertaken on a mine work-site – a potentially unhealthy combination of electricity, confined space and moisture.

WTIA has a long-standing commitment to safety in the workplace and has been working closely with mining authorities and companies through its Mining Industry Sectoral Project to contribute to improving safety, both above and below ground.



The Mine Safety Division of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), has published MDG25 “Guideline for Safe Cutting and Welding at Mines” to help mine owners, operators, and managers develop, implement, manage and audit a Welding Management Plan (WMP) as part of the overall Mine Safety Management Plan (MSMP).

MDG25 addresses welding and cutting in mines including hazard identification, risk assessment, fit-for-purpose equipment, fire and explosion, hazardous areas, wet areas and confined spaces.

Outcomes

The WTIA is supported by the NSW Department of State and Regional Development under the leadership of David Campbell Minister for Small Business. Working with officers from DPI Mine Safety Division, led by The Hon Kerry Hickey MP, Minister for Mineral Resources, WTIA has created tools to assist mining companies to develop and implement their WMP. The WTIA Expert Technology Tool (ETT) Technical Note 28

Welding Management Plan and Audit Tool for Safe Cutting and Welding at NSW Mines to MDG 25 provides a suite of tools to facilitate implementation of a WMP.

The ETT includes an audit tool which enables critical assessment of the welding management plan against the requirements of MDG 25 and a management framework based on AS/NZS 4801 *Occupational health and safety management systems - Specification with guidance for use* and AS/NZS 4804 *Occupational health and safety management systems - General guidelines on principles, systems and supporting techniques*. Also sample work instructions, sample forms for records of training, qualification, skills, competency and competency assessment; equipment inspection, inspection schedules, planned maintenance schedules for equipment maintenance, multi work permits, potential hazards and improvement reports are included as part of the package. Each element is easily introduced into a mine's existing system and tailored for integration and implementation.

A series of 9 workshops were held in New South Wales to introduce the ETT to mines and quarries throughout the State. Over 170 people attended in venues from Broken Hill to Mangrove Mountain, Singleton to Wollongong. WTIA Technology Manager Glen Allan then worked with individual mines on the successful implementation of the system in their sites.

The Future

Now proven of value for NSW mines, the ETT will be tailored to the requirements and operation of mines in each State, and versions launched to assist mines across Australia to manage this critical area of responsibility.

WTIA has reached agreement with two private training providers, in NSW and Victoria, to promote duty of care and improved workplace health and safety in the mining industries throughout Australia. They will deliver training courses and assistance on the implementation of the WTIA's Management System and key health and safety issues such as welding electrical safety and fume minimisation.

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