



Dangerous Goods Safety Bulletin No. 0417

Security of explosives

Background

Explosives have recently been found in the possession of members of the public not authorised to possess them. This has raised concerns with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety in regards to explosives safety and security.

Industries engaged in the possession and use of explosives are reminded of the need to have appropriate controls and procedures in place to ensure explosives are secure from sabotage, theft, unexplained loss and that there is no unauthorised access.

The requirements for the safe storage and security of explosives are outlined in the Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007, the *Australian Code for the Transport of Explosives by Road and Rail, 3rd Edition* (AEC3) and Australian Standard 2187 *Explosives – Storage, transport and use*.

Note: Recently the Western Australian Police and the Department investigated the theft of explosives from a mine site. Despite site records showing discrepancies between the recorded quantities and the actual quantities of explosives stored, these discrepancies were not investigated by the company. The root cause of the theft of the explosives was the illegal conduct of a trusted employee.

Summary of hazard

The safety of the community is put at risk if explosives are accessed by unauthorised persons and are used inappropriately.

Contributory factors

The security of explosives may be compromised if legislative requirements are not adhered to, if security risk assessments are inadequate, and security plans not complied with, regularly reviewed or updated.

Actions required

Safe systems of work

- Regularly review and update the security plan and security risk assessment to ensure it is current and effective. This includes:
 - checking physical controls such as magazines, locks, fences, security patrols and key security on a regular basis
 - regularly training staff on, and confirming that, the security plan is understood and complied with

- confirming that reporting systems are working and workers are aware of what should be reported (e.g. suspicious activity or behaviour)
- undertaking regular audits and inspections.

Note: As part of the security risk assessment process for your operation consider additional measures that could reduce the potential for sabotage or theft, such as:

- *ensuring one person does not have access to detonators, high explosives and an exploder at the same time, unless part of a planned blast*
- *when accessing an explosives magazine have two people present to ensure accurate recordkeeping and an actual need for the explosives*
- *regularly checking the national terrorism threat level and updating your security risk assessment and security plan for the current threat level.*
- Confirm that contractors who have access to explosives are aware of the operations' explosives management plan and are regularly audited.

Security measures

- Check that worker's dangerous goods security cards and other security clearances are current and appropriate to the position held.
- Monitor and control access to explosives and regularly check the detailed records of supply and access.
- Investigate any theft, attempted theft or any unexplained loss of an explosive and report this to the Chief Officer as soon as is reasonably practicable and immediately to the police.

Further information

- Standards Australia, www.standards.org.au
AS 2187 Explosives – Storage, transport and use
- Safe Work Australia, www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/australian-code-transport-explosives-road-and-rail-3rd-edition
Australian Code for the Transport of Explosives by Road and Rail, 3rd Edition
- Australian National Security, National terrorism threat advisory system, www.nationalsecurity.gov.au

31 October 2017

Ross Stidolph, Director Dangerous Goods and Petroleum Safety