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Site Senior Executive
Company or office
PO Box or Number and Street
City/Town State Postal Code

Dear Addressee's name

Re: Section 84, *Coal Mines Safety and Health Regulation 2001* – Refresher Training

At a recent meeting of the Board of Examiners, it was brought to my attention that there might be some confusion among some mine operators as to what is required for mines to comply with s.84 of the Regulation. Whilst refresher training is not one of the Boards functions, they unanimously supported that I write to each Site Senior Executive in order to clarify some of the perceptions held by some industry operators.

The Regulation commenced on 16 March 2001 and under the terms of s.84 of the regulation, each coal mine worker, including those with Certificates of Competency, should have received refresher training before 16 March 2006.

It is the Mines Inspectorate's position that refresher training should relate directly to the hazards at the mine and their control within the mine safety management system and would not necessarily be linked to the coal industry training package mentioned in s.82(2)(e) of the Regulation. QMITAB has previously advised that the coal industry training package was not designed for refresher training but was for establishing of competence in the first instance.

I am advised that there is no requirement under the Black Coal Training Package or any other educational qualification for the retraining or reassessment to the original curricula for that qualification.

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Whilst there is nothing to prevent a Site Senior Executive from using parts of the training package in the refresher training program, it should be understood that it is not mandatory and if used, could prove to be inadequate in managing the safety and health risks at a mine.

To assist mines prepare an effective refresher training program for persons holding Certificates of Competency, it may be useful for operators to be aware of the prime areas where the Board of Examiners assess competency. These include:

1. Emergency preparedness
2. Risk management
3. Spontaneous combustion
4. Strata Control and Mining Methods
5. Gas management
6. Ventilation
7. Mining services and infrastructure

You will note that these topics include matters covered by the Principal Hazard Management Plans at mines.

It is the Mines Inspectorate's position that refresher training should be relevant to the type and level of hazard present at a mine. It is considered most unlikely that generic training by an RTO in the national training package would meet the refresher training needs for a mine.

This letter is sent to assist in the proactive refresher training of your employees who are required to have Certificates of Competency in order to undertake their duties.

Yours sincerely

Brian Lyne
Chief Inspector of Coal Mines