(224)

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

MINES DEPARTMENT. KALGOORLIE.

C O P Y

20th July, 1962.

The Manager,
Australian Blue Asbestos Pty. Ltd.,
WITTENOOM.

Dear Sir,

re Mines Regulation Act - Regulation 56.

Regulation 56 of the Mines Regulation Act requires that when more than one charge is to be exploded the following will apply :-

(a). The cartridge method will be used, with a master fuse to ignite the fuses in the cartridge

or

(b). Electric blasting may be used

of

(c). Some other method, approved by the Minister, which reduces to a minimum the number of fuses to be lit by hand at any one time. The only other method approved by the Minister is the use of slow burning plastic igniter cord.

The above approval was granted on 14th March 1961 and the General Secretary of the Chamber of Mines of W.A. (Inc.) was notified the following day. I was later notified that all member companies of the Chamber of Mines were advised by the General Secretary.

A copy of the letter to the General Secretary is attached.

I have been informed that your company is using Fast Burning Plastic Igniter Cord in underground blasting operations. This is contrary to Regulation 56 of the Mines Regulation Act and the practice must cease forthwith.

Fast burning plastic igniter cord is a highly incendary product which requires very careful handling and as there is a possibility of the cord being ignited by being struck by a stone, I would not be prepared to seek the approval of the Hon. Minister for its use in underground work.

It is noted that Nobels' Notes suggest the use of fast burningcord for secondary blasting in Quarries and slow burning cord for underground work.

At the present time, fast burning plastic igniter cord may not be used underground in Mines in Western Australia.

Yours faithfully,

J. BOYLAND
SENIOR INSPECTOR OF MINES.

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
WV-04225

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