



# SAFETY ALERT

## Truck operator fatality

### INCIDENT

The operator of a road-registered truck was fatality injured when the vehicle's operator cabin was inundated with rock material during loading operations at a surface bin.



Artwork by Brooke Lewis

An artist's impression of the truck involved in the incident after being inundated with reject from the surface bin.

## **CIRCUMSTANCES**

Road-registered trucks transport reject material from a surface bin to the reject pad. A fleet of trucks was operating on the night shift to transport reject material. The bin operating door system can be operated in manual mode or automatic mode. In automatic mode the control system incorporates traffic lights, radio remote control and light positioning indicators.

## **INVESTIGATION**

An investigation is currently underway.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

All mines with truck loading systems incorporating a storage bin and utilising automatic or radio remote control systems should:

1. Undergo a hazard identification procedure on the system.
2. Review and assess the risk for the truck loading system, particularly if the truck cabin passes under the bin discharge.
3. Review the effectiveness of operator protection on the truck.
4. Review hazards and risk controls associated with the bin delivery system to provide an acceptable level of risk.
5. Review the electrical and mechanical engineering control systems to ensure a safety integrity level or safety category suitable for the level of risk.
6. Review against any relevant standards.
7. Review the procedures for loading the truck.

**NOTE:** Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations. The Safety Alert should be posted on the mine's noticeboard.

**Signed**



**Rob Regan**  
**DIRECTOR, MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH**  
**NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

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