
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1989 No. 635

The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

PART III

REGULATIONS APPLYING TO MINES ONLY

Cutting off electricity or making safe where firedamp is found either below ground or at the surface

20.—(1) Where any person at a mine detects firedamp in a concentration exceeding 1.25% by volume in the general body of the air either below ground at that mine or at any place on the surface thereat where any exhaustor in a firedamp drainage system is installed, firedamp is monitored or its heat content measured, he shall forthwith—

- (a) cut off the supply of electricity to any electrical equipment situated at the place where the said concentration was detected; or
- (b) (where this is not possible) take all reasonably practicable steps to make such equipment safe; or
- (c) (if the taking of the measures specified in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above does not fall within the scope of his normal duties) report the matter to an official of the mine who shall ensure that those measures are taken;

except that the provisions of sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) above shall not apply if the electrical equipment is approved for the purpose of remaining energised in such circumstances or (in the case of a safety-lamp mine) is electrical equipment such as is specified in regulation 21(2).

(2) If the supply of electricity to electrical equipment is cut off or the equipment made safe in accordance with paragraph (1), it shall remain in that condition until the senior official on duty at the mine having determined that it is safe to do so, directs that such precautions are no longer necessary.

(3) If the supply of electricity to electrical equipment is cut off or the equipment made safe in accordance with paragraph (1), details of the time, duration and location shall be recorded.