

NOTE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND READERS

ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN MINES (HSG 278)

Introduction

1. This note is designed to be read with the Great Britain Health and Safety Executive (HSE) publication entitled “*Electrical Safety in Mines (HSG 278)*”.
2. This guidance replaces the HSE Approved Code of Practice L128 – The use of electricity in mines: Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 which was approved for use in Northern Ireland. The guidance has been adopted by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and is intended to help mine operators comply with their legal duties with regards to controlling the major hazards associated with the use of electricity in mines. It is primarily aimed at mine operators, engineers and technicians but will also be useful to others within the mining industry such as mine managers, safety representatives and representatives of employee safety, any employer with employees who work below ground at mines and self employed contractors working below ground at mines.

Reading the Great Britain Publication

3. The Great Britain guidance document can be applied directly to Northern Ireland. The Appendix to this note provides details of the Northern Ireland legislation which corresponds to that mentioned in the Great Britain document.

Further Information

4. Further information can be obtained by contacting HSENI. You can find HSENI's contact information at the following link;
 - <https://www.hseni.gov.uk/contact>

Northern Ireland legislation which corresponds to that mentioned in the HSE publication entitled “Electrical Safety in Mines (HSG 278)”

Great Britain	Northern Ireland equivalent
The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 (S.I. 1989/635)	The Electricity At Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991 (S.R. 1991 No. 13)
The Equipment and Protective Systems Intended for Use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 1996 (S.I. 1996/192) (EPS) (which implement Directive 94/9/EC – the ATEX Equipment Directive) *EPS was revoked by The Equipment and Protective Systems Intended for Use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/1107)	The Equipment and Protective Systems intended for Use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (Northern Ireland) (S.R. 1996 No. 247) (EPS) (which implement Directive 94/9/EC – the ATEX Equipment Directive) *it is anticipated that EPS will be revoked by the proposed Equipment and Protective Systems Intended for Use in Potentially Explosive Atmospheres (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2017
The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (S.I. 2002/2776) (DSEAR) (which implement Directive 99/92/EC – the ATEX Workplace Directive)	Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 152) (DSEAR) (which implement Directive 99/92/EC – the ATEX Workplace Directive)
The Mines Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/3248)	The Mines Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R. 2016 No. 427)
The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (S.I. 1998/2306)	The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 (S.R. 1999 No. 305)