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**DGMS(Genl) Circular No. 1 of 1998**

**Dhanbad, dated the 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 1998.**

All Coal Metalliferous /Oil Mines.

The role of the Internal Safety Organization (ISO) in promoting the cause of safety, does not need any more emphasis when viewed from the current safety scenario in mines. Though, the successive safety conferences in mines deliberated on certain principles of self regulation, it was the Firth Conference on Safety in mines held in 1980 which clearly spelt-out the structure, role and functions of the ISO in every mining company. The matter was also covered extensively in the recommendations of the Courts of inquiry of Kessurgharh colliery and Sudamdih Colliery, wherein the role of Internal Safety Organization was made specific. These recommendations have been circulated to the Industry vide DGMS Technical Circular No.5 of 1979. The sixth conference on safety in mines contemplated further on expansion of the role and functions of the ISO.

But, from its inception as one of the main recommendations of the Fifth Conference on Safety in Mines, the ISO's Contribution to safety in mines have been unfortunately clouded. It is an accepted fact that more thrust is required in strengthening the role and functioning of the Institution.

An analysis of the chronological sequence of the status of Internal Safety Organisation and its functioning in mines from inception, in light of the present scenario in mines appear to convey the following as the major shortcomings.

1. The functioning of the ISO in mines, is far from meeting the desired objectives.
2. The formulated and effected Corporate level safety Policy in mines by the mining companies, have not been successful in mitigating the incidences of mining accidents and disasters.
3. Failure of effectively monitor the status of implementation of policy directives by the mining companies.
4. Ineffective Inspection of mines for assessment of safety status.
5. Failure of effectively propagate the theme of safety in mine across the various cross section of the management.

Thus, there appears to be an urgent need for reviewing critically, the entire gamut of the concept of ISO, with a view to streamlining the efforts and in identifying the grey areas in the field of safety, for tackling the challenges effectively. In this connection, your attention is also brought to this Directorate's General Circular No.2 of 1997, which was explicit in the role of ISO for meeting the challenges of the future.

It is therefore advised that the management of all mining companies, adopt the following measures as recommended in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Safety in Mines and also in the

recommendations of the Courts of Enquiries of “ Kessurgarh” Colliery and “Sudamdih” colliery, in reviving the institution of the ISO for justifying its role in improvement of safety standards in mines.

- a. The ISO in every mining company, shall make an in-depth mine wise, cause-wise analysis of all fatal/serious accidents.
- b. The ISO shall monitor the impact of the “Safety Campaigns” drawn up by the Board of Directors based on the ISO’s analysis of accidents as mentioned above, and also submit a report to the Board of Directors at intervals not exceeding 3 months.
- c. The ISO shall be made independent of the production line up at all levels.
- d. The Chief of ISO shall be of a senior rank, next only to the Dir(Tech)/M.D.D./ Chief Executive of mining companies.
- e. The ISO shall be a multidisciplinary team, with a field set-up which shall be above the mine level .
- f. For ISO to be effective in its functioning, suitable policy shall be framed on the basis of the following guidelines.
  - i. A proper Safety Policy shall be drawn up at corporate level to the company.
  - ii. A suitable machinery shall be evolved for effective monitoring of the implementation status of policy directives.
  - iii. There shall be system of periodic mine inspections for assessment of safety status.
  - iv. All mine accidents and dangerous occurrences shall be independently enquired into by the ISO.
  - v. The ISO shall make independent assessment of the safety implication in all cases of opening of new mine/ district, use of new equipment, adoption of new method of work and all grievances on safety related matters.
  - vi. All applications for obtaining statutory permission, shall be studied and vetted by the ISO before submission.
  - vii. Findings of the ISO on safety matters shall be discussed in the Safety Committees at mines.
  - viii. The ISO shall periodically assess the proper functioning of the institutions of Workmen’s Inspectors and the Safety Committee in mines.
  - ix. There shall be a system of auditing the safety standard at intervals of not more than an year, for each mine.

Therefore you are requested to take all possible steps in achieving the set objectives of the Institution of the Internal Safety Organisation.

**DGMS (Genl) Circular No.2 of 1998**

**Dhanbad, dated the 4<sup>th</sup> June 1998.**

All mines

In order to facilitate quick delivery of unregistered letters, two letter boxes have been earmarked for this Directorate. Particulars of the letter boxes are as follows :

1. Post Box No.65 : For all correspondences addressed to the Secretary, Board of mining Examination, Dhanbad.
2. Post Box No.73 : For all correspondences addressed to the Director-General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad.

It is therefore requested that while sending the letters to this Directorate, the concerned Post Box numbers as mentioned above, should invariably be mentioned on the envelope so as to enable their prompt collection from the Post Office.