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CHAPTER 350**MINES REGULATIONS**

An Act to regulate Manjak and other Mines.

1899-2.
L.N. 168/
1967.

[26th January, 1899] Commence-
ment.

1. This Act may be cited as the Mines Regulation Act. Short title.

2. The following general rules set out in sections 3 to 16 shall be observed, so far as is reasonably practicable, in every mine. General rules.

3. An adequate amount of ventilation shall be constantly produced in every mine to dilute and render harmless noxious gases to such an extent that the working places of the shafts, levels and working places of the mine and the travelling roads from and to those working places shall be in a fit state for working and passing therein. Ventilation of mines.

4. (1) A competent person appointed by the owner, agent or manager for the purpose shall, within two hours immediately before the commencement of each shift, inspect every part of the mine in which workmen are to work or pass during that shift and shall ascertain the condition thereof so far as the presence of gas, ventilation, roof and sides and general safety are concerned. Inspection of working parts of mine.

- (2) No workmen shall enter the mine until it has been so examined and stated by such competent person to be safe.
- (3) The inspection shall be made with a safety lamp.

5. A competent person appointed by the owner, agent or manager for the purpose shall, once at least in every twenty-four hours while the mine is being worked or used, examine the Inspection of machinery, etc.

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by authority of the Government of Barbados

state of the external part of the machinery, if any, the state of the guides or conductors in the shafts, the state of the head-gear, ropes, chains and other similar appliances of the mine which are in actual use both above ground and below ground and the state of the shafts by which persons ascend or descend, and shall without delay make a true report of the result of such examination in a book to be kept at the mine for the purpose, and shall sign such report.

Withdrawal
of workmen
in case of
danger.

6. (1) Where at any time it is found by the person for the time being in charge of the mine that the mine, or any part of it, is from any cause whatever dangerous, every workman shall be withdrawn from the mine, or the part thereof so found dangerous; and a workman shall not, except in so far as is necessary for enquiring into the cause of danger, or for the removal thereof, or for exploration, be re-admitted into the mine or part so found dangerous, until the same is stated by a competent person appointed to inspect not to be dangerous.

(2) Every such report shall be recorded in a book which shall be kept at the mine for the purpose and shall be signed by the person who made the inspection.

Fencing of
old shafts.

7. The top of every shaft which for the time being is out of use or used only as an air shaft shall be and shall be kept securely fenced.

Fencing of
entrances to
shafts.

8. The top and all entrances between the top and bottom of every working, ventilating or pumping shaft shall be properly fenced, but this shall not be taken to forbid the temporary removal of the fence for the purpose of repairs or other operations if proper precautions are used.

Securing of
shafts.

9. Where the natural strata are not safe, every working or pumping shaft shall be securely cased, lined or otherwise made secure.

Securing of
roofs and
sides.

10. (1) The roof and sides of every travelling road and working place shall be made secure, and a person shall not, unless

appointed for the purpose of exploring or repairing, travel or work in any such travelling road or working place which is not so made secure.

(2) The distance between the props, where they are required, shall not exceed six feet.

11. Every working shaft used for the purpose of drawing minerals or for the lowering or raising of persons shall be provided with proper means of communicating distinct and definite signals from the bottom of the shaft and from every entrance for the time being in use between the surface and the bottom of the shaft to the surface and from the surface to the bottom of the shaft and to every entrance for the time being in use between the surface and the bottom of the shaft.

Means of signalling for working shafts.

12. A single linked chain shall not be used for lowering or raising persons in any working shaft or plane.

Lowering or raising of persons.

13. All exposed and dangerous parts of the machinery used in or about the mine shall be and shall be kept securely fenced.

Machinery to be fenced.

14. No person shall wilfully damage or without proper authority remove or render useless any fence, fencing, casing, lining, means of signalling, signal, cover, chain or appliance or thing provided in any mine in compliance with this Act or any rules.

No tampering with safety devices.

15. Every person shall observe such directions with respect to working as may be given to him with a view to complying with this Act or any rules.

Observance of directions.

16. The books mentioned in this Act or in any rules shall be provided by the owner, agent or manager and any police constable or other person appointed by the Commissioner of Police may at all reasonable times inspect and take copies of and extracts from any such books; and all such books shall be kept by the owner, agent or manager for six months after the books have ceased to be used for entries therein under this Act.

Books and copies thereof.

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Regulations
may be made
by Minister.

17. The Minister may make such further rules as may be deemed necessary under this Act for the regulation of mining, and such rules, when they have been sanctioned by both Houses and published three times in the *Official Gazette*, shall have the force and effect of law.

Penalty on
non-
compliance
with rules.

18. Any person who contravenes or does not comply with any of the general rules under this Act or any rule made by the Minister shall be guilty of an offence under this Act; and in the event of any contravention of or non-compliance with any of the general rules or any rule made by the Minister, by any person whomsoever, the owner, agent and manager shall each be guilty of an offence against this Act, unless he proves that he had taken all reasonable means of publishing and to the best of his power enforcing the rules as regulations for the working of the mine, to prevent such contravention or non-compliance.

Rules to be
posted and
kept posted
at or near
mine.

19. (1) The owner, agent or manager of the mine shall cause the general rules and any rules made by the Minister to be posted up in legible characters in some conspicuous place at or near the mine where they may be conveniently read by the persons employed and, so often as the same become defaced, obliterated or destroyed, shall cause them to be renewed with all reasonable despatch.

(2) In the event of any non-compliance with this section, the owner, agent and manager shall each be guilty of an offence against this Act, unless he proves that he had taken all reasonable means, by enforcing to the best of his power the observance of this section, to prevent such non-compliance.

Penalties.

20. Every person who is guilty of an offence against this Act shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding, if he is owner, agent or manager, ninety-six dollars, and if he is any other person, ten dollars, to be recovered in each case in a summary manner before a magistrate on the information of any person.