

COAL MINES AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Clause 1 relates to the Short Title.

Clause 2 adds two subclauses to section 91 of the principal Act, which relates to the ventilation of mines.

The new subclause (4) provides that where only locked safety lamps may be used in any mine (being a mine where the use of naked lights would be dangerous), the quantity of air at the commencement of the return outbye of the last working place shall be not less than 3,000 cubic feet per minute.

The new subclause (5) provides that if the percentage of inflammable gas present in the general body of air current at any part of a mine is $1\frac{1}{4}$ percent or more, changes or adjustments shall be made to the ventilation so that the percentage is reduced to below $1\frac{1}{4}$ percent.

Clause 3 amends section 12 of the Coal Mines Amendment Act 1941, which relates to ventilation surveys and improvements in ventilation.

At present, an Inspector may require a ventilation survey to be made, and may require improvements in ventilation to be made, if the percentage of inflammable gas at any working place in a mine is $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent or more.

The amendment reduces the operative percentage from $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent to $1\frac{1}{4}$ percent.

Clause 4 amends section 126 of the principal Act, which relates to the prevention of coal dust in mines.

The amendment provides that no tub shall be filled with coal to such an extent that spillage may occur.

Clause 5 amends section 129 of the principal Act, which relates to periodical inspections of a mine and its equipment by the mine manager.

The amendment permits a mine manager, with the consent of an Inspector, to appoint a person, with qualifications approved by the Inspector, to assist him with the inspections if, owing to the size of the mine or to the difficulty of travelling conditions, such assistance is required.

Hon. Mr Shelton

COAL MINES AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

Title
1. Short Title
2. Ventilation of mines

3. Ventilation surveys and improvements in ventilation
4. Prevention of coal dust
5. Periodical inspections of mine and equipment

A BILL INTITULED

An Act to amend the Coal Mines Act 1925

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same,
5 as follows:

1. Short Title—This Act may be cited as the Coal Mines Amendment Act 1970, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Coal Mines Act 1925* (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

10 **2. Ventilation of mines**—Section 91 of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

“(4) In every mine in which no lamps or lights other than locked safety lamps may be used in accordance with section 95 of this Act, the quantity of air at the commencement of
15 the return outbye of the last working place shall be not less than 3,000 cubic feet per minute.

*1957 Reprint, Vol. 2, p. 157

Amendments: 1959, No. 41; 1960, No. 25; 1961, No. 33; 1964, No. 13; 1968, No. 72

“(5) If the percentage of inflammable gas present in the general body of the air current at any part of a mine is $1\frac{1}{4}$ percent or more, changes or adjustments shall be made to the ventilation so that the percentage of inflammable gas is reduced to below $1\frac{1}{4}$ percent.”

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3. Ventilation surveys and improvements in ventilation—Section 12 of the Coal Mines Amendment Act 1941 is hereby amended—

(a) By omitting from subsection (1) the words “one and one-half”, and substituting the expression “ $1\frac{1}{4}$ ”:

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(b) By omitting from subsection (2) the words “one and one-half”, and substituting the expression “ $1\frac{1}{4}$ ”.

4. Prevention of coal dust—Section 126 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after paragraph (b), the following paragraph:

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“(bb) No tub shall be filled with coal to such an extent that spillage of coal from the tub may occur:”.

5. Periodical inspections of mine and equipment—Section 129 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting in subsection (1), after paragraph (a), the following paragraph:

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“(aa) If, owing to the size of a mine or to the difficulty of travelling conditions in or about a mine, the manager is of the opinion that he requires assistance in order to comply with paragraph (a) of this subsection, he may, with the written consent of the Inspector (which may at any time be withdrawn), appoint a person, with qualifications approved by the Inspector, to carry out all or any of the duties imposed by that paragraph:”.

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