

# Electrical Remote Control Working Group

## Status report as at 30 June 2000

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### **Background:**

The group was formed to determine Queensland mining industry compliance against known industry standards and to investigate two recent incidents. These investigations aimed to determine the level of consistency of operation of remote control devices within the industry.

The working party consists of:

Lionel Smith	-	Crinum
Dave Slape	-	South Blackwater
Peter Kuhle	-	Kestrel
Kym Tynan	-	Moura
Greg Lyne	-	DME

The scope of the group were restricted to remote control mining equipment. The group developed a generic audit tool for use at each mine site based on known guidelines - NSWDMR guidelines MDG5001/MDG5001a, and MDG5002 and Australian Standards - AS 4240.

### **The Initial Audit**

Each member of the group completed a basic compliance audit on equipment installed within their mine using a standard audit tool based on the Australian Standard. This established the current status and from this the group were able to identify the direction for industry to proceed in. At this stage equipment manufacturers and radio system suppliers were invited to contribute to the working group.

Assistance was obtained from:

Paul Sullivan	-	Oaky Creek No. 1
Terry Rankin	-	Oaky Creek No. 1
Dave Caulton	-	Newlands
Owen Barry	-	Southern
Peter Herbert	-	North Goonyella
Dave Alcock	-	DME
James Nasser	-	Joy Mining Parkhurst
Eric De Zoeten	-	VA Eimco
Alan Chapman	-	Monduran

All mines were kept informed of the group's progress through either having a delegate on the group or through receiving copies of the minutes of meetings. This gave all mines ownership of the outcomes.

### **Review of Reference Material**

Following the review of reference material the group agreed to shelve MDG5001 except for the section on PLC control as the points raised are adequately covered by AS4240. MDG5002 was adopted as the principal reference document as it provides the most relevant guidance. In addition it was agreed to audit mine systems against AS4240 to gain and understanding of other equipment manufacture and mine compliance.

The group liaised with three other groups currently working on related matters. In NSW there is a group preparing software management guidelines – John Chapman from Joy Mining is the chairperson.

There is also a group working on PLC program management – Les Darwen is facilitating this

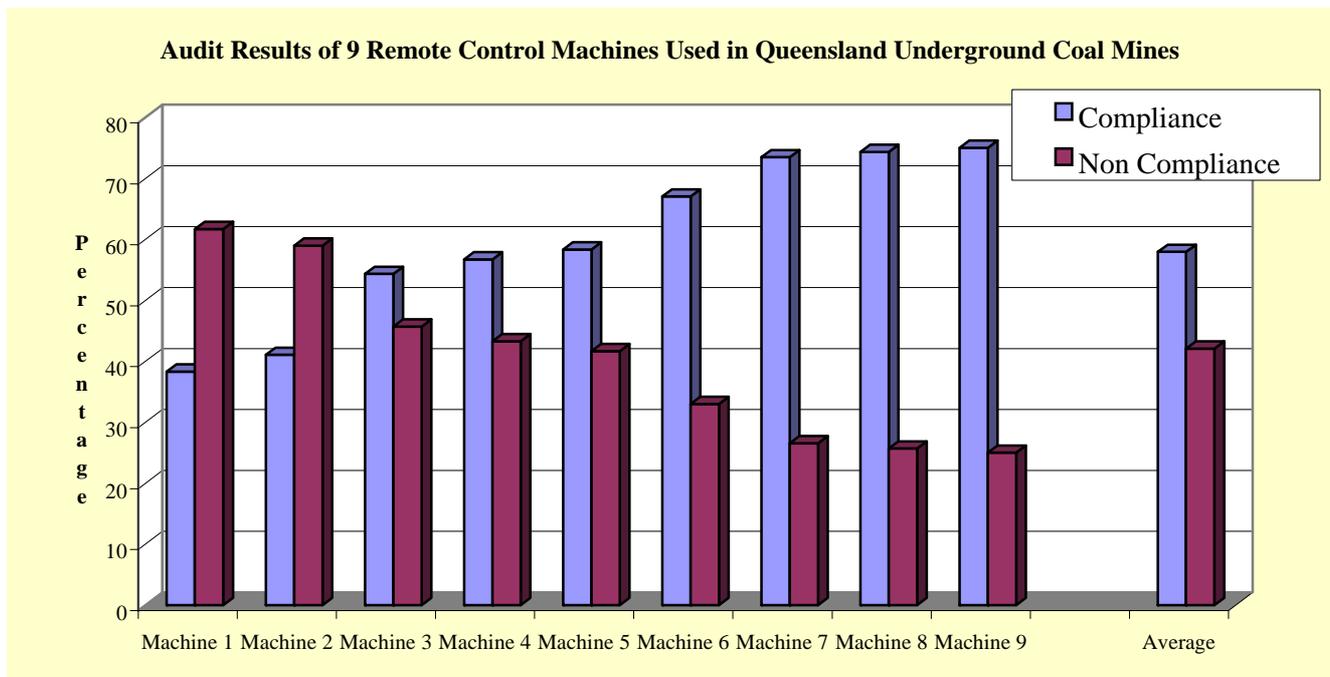
Dave Alcock facilitated a working group looking at mechanical aspects which prepared a generic isolation procedure for mechanical maintenance of continuous miners. This working party consisted of industry, union and supplier representatives.

The group experience difficulty in accessing OEM audit/service bulletins. Peter Kuhle is attempting to source this information. It is important to highlight any procedural differences.

### Audit Findings

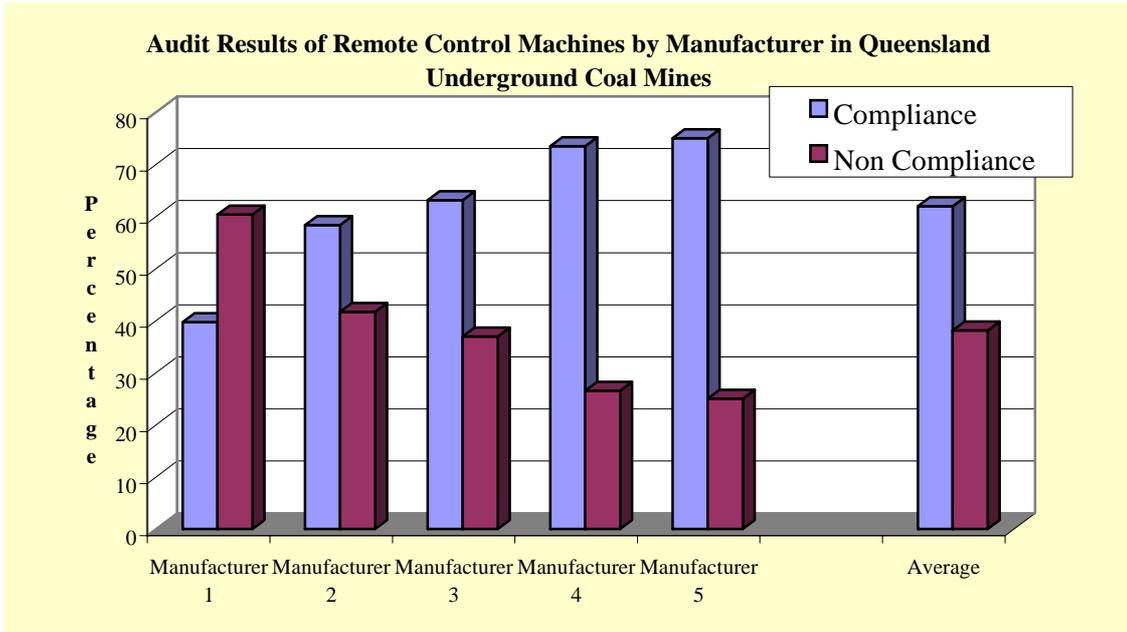
A survey was completed on 9 machines working within the Bowen Basin. These were spread across 5 manufactures of machines and 6 manufacturers of remote control systems. Figure 1 shows the results of the audit.

Figure 1.

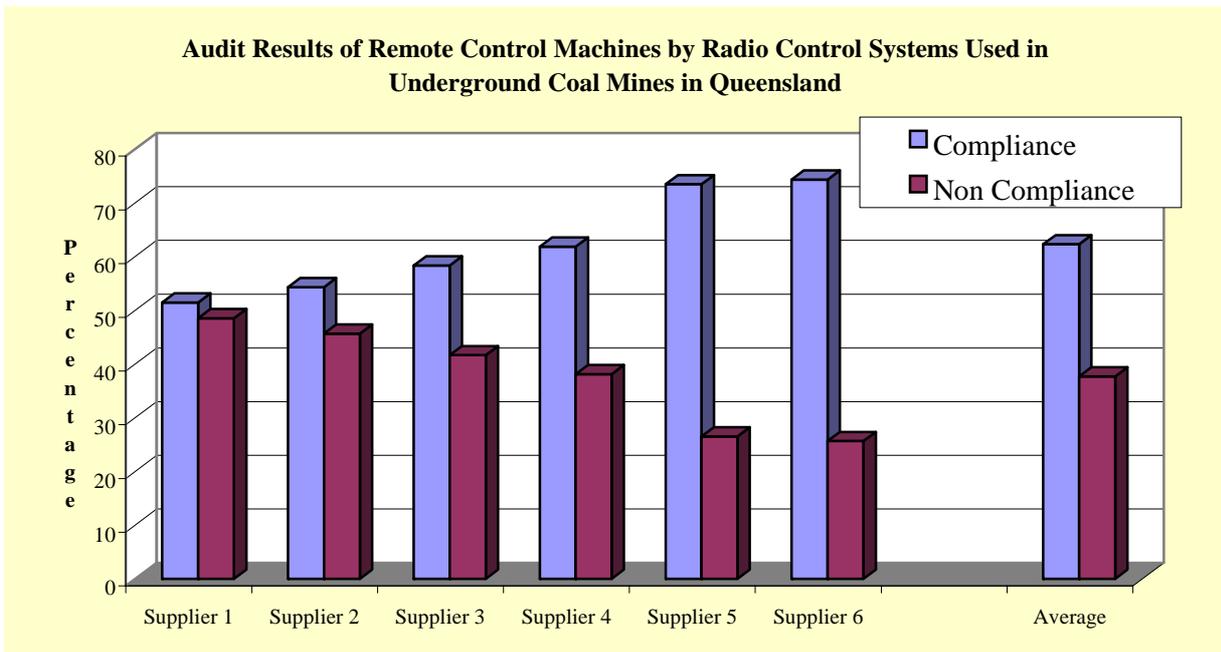


The audit results by manufacturer are presented in figure 2 and by supplier are presented in figure 3. Whilst these graphs show substantial compliance all indicate that there is still considerable room for improvement.

**Figure 2.**



**Figure 3.**



**The Future.**

Now the initial industry compliance review is complete the group will assess whether or not a recognised standard is required. A presentation will be made to the NSW DMR Inspectorate with a view to updating the MDG series if needed.