Road safety audits on mining operations

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Collaborating with the road industry to turn knowledge into practice
Road safety audits

- A road safety audit is a nationally accredited formal examination of a future road or traffic project or of an existing road, in which an independent, qualified team reports on the project’s crash potential and safety performance.
Road safety audits

- Feasibility audit
- Preliminary design audit
- Detailed design audit
- Pre-opening audit
- Existing road network audit

*Trigger:
- time lapse
- change in operational conditions
The benefits of road safety audits
- likelihood and severity of crashes can be reduced
- road safety becomes more prominent in designers’ minds
- the need for costly remedial work is reduced
- whole of life project costs are reduced
Road safety audits

- How are audits conducted (before site visit)
  - selection of an appropriate audit team
  - relevant documentation provided for review prior to the site visit
  - agreement on the scope and deliverables
Road safety audits

- How are audits conducted (during site visit)
  - the team should be escorted by an experienced person who is:
    - able to provide background information about the operational requirements
    - tasked with the implementation of the recommendations
  - visual records and notes are taken
  - include daytime and night-time inspections
Road safety audits

- Inspections should include:
  - interaction between light vehicles, heavy vehicles, and pedestrians
  - speed management
  - road design and layout including intersections and other areas of traffic conflict
  - signage, delineation and lighting
  - parking arrangements
  - evaluation of the existing land transportation management systems, i.e. documentation and processes.
Road safety audits

• After the site visit:
  – audit report including findings and recommendations
  – recommendations usually provided in a Corrective Actions Report (CAR)
  – may or may not be prioritised

• Internal process (by the client)
  – review and risk assessment of recommendations
  – prioritisation
  – action plan
  – formal response in the CAR
Road safety audits

• When a client receives an audit report:
  – should look beyond the recommendations
    - limitations to auditors’ appreciation for operational conditions
  – Should consider the findings and the underlying safety concerns (i.e. the intent)
  – May develop alternative solutions if justified
Road safety audits

• Why recommendations do not get implemented?
  – financial pressures
  – other more urgent issues
  – change of management (i.e. forgotten)
  – operational reasons
  – alternative solutions
Road safety audits

- It is important to document the review and response to audit findings
- Be aware that you have been made aware!!!
References

• Standards don’t necessarily equal safety
  - but they are an important starting point
  - their application would remove many hazards

• Not all ‘public road’ standards are applicable but should be applied wherever possible
Questions ?

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