

AEISG POLICY NUMBER 02

Purpose: To restrict the commercial supply of Safety Fuse, Plain Detonators and associated fuse crimpers.

Background:

In 2000 there were a number of reported incidents at underground mines in Queensland where safety fuse flashed or fast burnt when lit, providing no time delay for safety purposes. In one particular incident the burning fuse fortunately stopped before igniting the charged development round thereby preventing serious injury or possible death to two miners involved in firing the round. In other instances, the rapid burning occurred during routine testing of the fuse burn rate.

Also, there exists considerable evidence that opal prospectors often use significantly short lengths of safety fuse in setting small blasts to save costs. In so doing these prospectors are significantly endangering their own lives and potentially those of their associates/assistants.

As a consequence of these events, the history of near misses involving safety fuse and the dangers posed by plain detonators, members of AEISG have decided to stop the sale and/or supply of safety fuse, plain detonators and fuse crimpers. Members of AEISG can offer alternative methods of initiating blasts, other than using safety fuse and plain detonators, which are significantly safer to employ.

The following policy does not apply to the use of safety fuse and plain detonators for testing, demonstrations, special effects or other non-commercial blasting purposes.

AEISG Policy:

AEISG Members have agreed:

- not to supply, by sale or any other means, to any parties regardless of whether the particular party is authorised to possess or not; and
- not to use in their blasting activities;

any safety fuse, plain detonators and associated fuse crimpers.

Agreed by AEISG Members: 17 May 2016