

AEISG POLICY NUMBER 03

Purpose: To limit the commercial supply of nitro-glycerine (NG) based explosives in Australasia.

Background:

Over the past few decades the use of NG based explosives has been replaced by the less problematic ammonium nitrate (AN) based explosives, including watergel and emulsion type explosives.

While NG based explosives have been properly authorised and used in Australia over many years, such explosives have some undesirable characteristics which are not present in AN based explosives.

NG based explosives:

- expose users to potentially toxic fumes during manufacture, storage and use;
- are more sensitive to external stimuli such as friction, impact, spark and heat than AN based explosives;
- deteriorate over time, leading to the exudation of the NG; and
- pose potentially unsafe recovery and disposal operations resulting from over-age and/or poor storage environments.

In most common explosives use situations, AN based explosives have proven to be suitable and are satisfactory replacements for NG based explosives.

AEISG members believe that limiting supply of NG based explosives in Australasia will lead to improved safety outcomes within the mining, quarrying and construction industries and the community.

The following policy does not limit the acquisition and use of NG based explosives by individual AEISG members for specialist blasting applications such as permitted in underground coal mining, low temperature environments and particular construction/demolition projects.

Note: Reference to 'NG' includes alternate liquid nitrates e.g. Ethylene Glycol Dinitrate.

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 normal blasting activities, any NG based explosives.

Agreed by AEISG Members: 28/08/2018