

UPDATED

Safety Alert – AE-SAS-008

Stone Dust Compliance

This Bulletin has been issued to inform End Users of the Alfabs Bat Bag's and about a batch of Stone Dust not meeting the required compliance requirements.

Event

On the 9th of November the Department of Industry conducted a routine audit on a NSW Coal mine in the Hunter Valley. During this audit it was identified a possible non-compliance with the stone dust used in the Alfabs Bat Bag barrier. The Stone Dust has an appearance of an off white colour and initial testing has demonstrated a high moisture content. **Further testing was conducted and has also found that 55.75% of the material passed through the 75µm Sieve Size (Required >60% and <80%)**

Further information has come to light about the Stone Dust supplied by Alfabs in relation to this non-compliance. On the 29th of July a bulk delivery of Stone Dust was received at the Alfabs Kurri Kurri premises. This Stone Dust was transferred to the Alfabs bulk system that is utilised to break the stone dust down to the required size for the bat bag process. Upon receipt of the delivery, the operator doing the transfer notice that the transfer was extremely slow, and turned the load away due to our system being in capable of handling moisture content higher than 0.5%. Further investigation has identified that Alfabs had received 11.78 tonne, which was processed into Alfabs Bat Bags approximately 1,963 Bat Bags. Alfabs labels the Bat Bag boxes with the date the product was produced.

Our Supplier believes that this is an isolated incident caused by environmental conditions occurring at the Stone Dust suppliers processing plant.

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Further Information

After consultation and a review, it is a recommendation that the following actions are completed to prevent any further similar incidents occurring:-

- Alfabs purchases Stone Dust only from suppliers with a NSW Trade and Investment Report showing the Stone Dust has been tested in accordance with ~~MDG 3006~~ ~~MRT5~~ *Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014 Subdivision 3 Clause 65 section E*
- Alfabs receives batch test certificates from suppliers for all stone dust to verify that all stone dust being received and processed is in accordance with ~~MDG 3006~~ ~~MRT5~~ *Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014 Subdivision 3 Clause 65 section E*
- ~~The specific batch is being identified and direct information is being passed onto the end users who received the Bat Bags.~~ **Alfabs seeks to make the below recommendation to ensure that ALL possible bags from the possible batch have been identified**
- Further testing **has been** conducted by all relevant parties to identify supplementary information on the specific batch
- Further testing is **has been** conducted on a random selection of Alfabs Bat Bags batches to identify any further possibility of stone dust not meeting the required compliance requirements.

End User Recommendations

Alfabs makes the following recommendations:-

- **End users of the Alfabs Bat Bag's complete an immediate audit of any possible bat bags installed after 1st August 2016 for possible colour variations that do not meet the onsite colour spectrums. Any variations are to be notified to Alfabs immediately.**
- **The relevant person is to inform Alfabs of the receipt of this safety Alert, and notify Alfabs that the recommendations are completed.**

Due to the serious of this issue and further possible events occurring, Alfabs is updating our Quality Management System to ensure that this will not occur in the future. This Quality Management System will be distributed to all end users to ensure that they are satisfied with Alfabs ability to continue the supply of product to the strict requirements.

Notes

Please ensure all relevant personnel in your organisation receive a copy of this Bulletin and are informed of its contents and recommendations. This Bulletin should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine information and communication process which should include being displayed on notice/information board.

For any questions or queries please contact your local Alfabs Representative.

Regards,



Jacob Bellamy

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