



SAFETY ALERT

Doc No: SA-0054

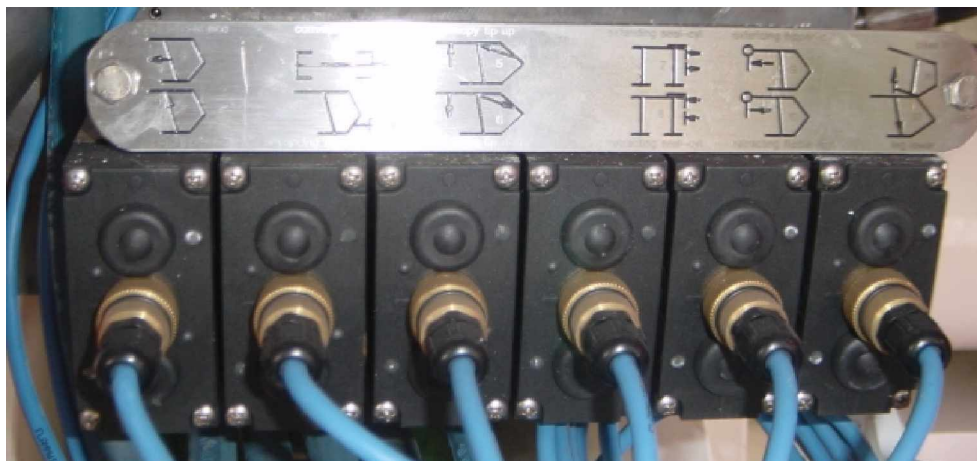


Machine	Long Wall Roof Support (Longwall Shields)	Area	Shield Operations
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Distribution:			
All End Users			

A recent incident involving in-shield manual operation of an underground longwall roof support (longwall shield) led to a mine worker suffering a crush and amputation injury when his foot became entrapped under the shield base.

At the time of the incident the shield was being operated directly from the pushbuttons located on the pilot solenoid operated DCV control bank with the intention of advancing the shield position toward the AFC during a 'fly cut'.



This incident has highlighted the need to reinforce recommended operating procedures and the need to identify activities for which in-shield manual control functions are considered appropriate.



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Bucyrus reinforce that in-shield manual control valves are not to be used during normal operational activities. In-shield manual controls have been provided for in-shield maintenance activities only. Riding on, or being in the line of shield movement is to be avoided in all instances.

Bucyrus recommend that operations undertake risk reviews to establish:

- All activities which require the use of in-shield manual control operation.
- Ensure that all Crush and Pinch Points have been identified and risk management strategies implemented.
- Operating procedures enforcing the application of off-board operations have been developed and contingency procedures are available for breakdown and fault finding scenarios, including the application of appropriate energy isolation.
- Training and competency assessment programs for face operations are reviewed to ensure appropriate use of in-shield manual control.

<i>Comment:</i>