

## **Order of 17 Rabie Ethani 1425 corresponding to 6 June 2004 laying down rules for protection against underground fires**

The Minister for Energy and Mining,

- Given Presidential Decree No. 04-138 of 6 Rabie El Aouel 1425 corresponding to 26 April 2004 concerning nomination of members of the Government;
- Given Executive Decree No. 96-214 dated 28 Moharram 1417 corresponding to 15 June 1996 fixing the responsibilities of the Minister of Energy and Mines;
- Given Executive Decree No. 02-65 of 23 Dhou El Kaada 1422 corresponding to 6 February 2002 defining procedures for award of mining permits
- Given Executive Decree 02-66 of 23 Dhou El Kaada 1422 corresponding to 6 February on procedure of award of mining permits following Request for Bids
- Given Executive Decree No 02-469 dated 23 Chaouel 1423 corresponding to 24 December 2002 establishing the procedures for gathering, collection and/or harvesting
- Given Executive Decree 02-470 of 20 Chaoual 1423 corresponding to 24 December 2002 on provisions for permits for operating sandpits and quarries
- Given Executive Decree 02-470 0495 of 11 Safar 1425 corresponding to 1 April 2004 establishing the rules for professional mining standards, notably article 13

### **Hereby orders:**

**Article 1:** In application of the provisions of executive decree No. 04-95 of 11 Safar 1425 corresponding to 1 April 2004, this order lays down the rules for protection against underground fires.

**Article 2:** For exercise of mining activities, holders of mining permits are bound to carry out works in conformity to the rules in this order.

**Article 3:** Electrical equipment to be used in the mine must be designed so that:

- any direct contact between any person and an electrical conductor is avoided
- the electrical supply system used has a minimum risk of electrocution for personnel

**Article 4:** The electrical cables, cut-off devices and protective devices must be designed so they eliminate the cause of abnormal overheating of conductors.

**Article 5:** Underground premises containing thermal machines or used as stores, even temporarily, for easily flammable substances, shall not be clad except with incombustible materials.

Flammable liquids must be retained in tanks, metal drums or hermetically sealed containers.

Ingredients used for greasing and cleaning shall not be stored except in closed metal containers or in bricked recesses with metal doors. Greasy waste must be placed in metal boxes and removed regularly.

Bags or buckets full of clean dry sand must be kept in premises containing flammable liquids.

No smoking is permitted in underground areas containing easily flammable substances and the production of flames or sparks is prohibited.

**Article 6:** Constructions for covering the orifices of wells shall not be constructed other than in non-combustible materials except during preparatory works.

No procurements of easily flammable substances shall be located in such areas.

Measures will be adopted to ensure that in case of a fire on the surface, this can be combated rapidly, preventing smoke penetrating the worksite.

**Article 7:** Flow back of air into rooms containing easily flammable substances and those used to store explosives, must be designed such that in the case of a fire, the harmful gases can be removed without passing through any active worksite or gallery in use.

If this condition cannot be satisfied, these rooms must be capable of hermetic sealing by non-combustible

doors. Rooms containing flammable liquids must be suitably ventilated, a set of rooms of this nature shall not be aerated in series.

**Article 8:** All mines must have fixed extinction ramps or mobile extinction ramps which remain constantly in good condition, for immediate combating of any underground fires.

Such appliances must notably, be installed on the bottom, close to rooms containing easily flammable substances, at less than 150 metres from any point of a conveyor belt if the latter is combustible, and at appropriate selected points on main tracks supported by combustible materials without water pipes.

The location of these devices must be shown on the aeration plan.

**Article 9:** Any person observing the start of a fire must try and extinguish it and if this cannot be achieved rapidly, warn the closest supervisory agent as promptly as possible.

**Article 10:** If a mine fire breaks out and if all resources used cannot combat it, the operator must isolate the zone on fire from other zones in the mine by constructing barriers. The plan for the design of the barriers must be approved by the Agence Nationale de la Géologie et du Contrôle Minier. The latter, once constructed, must be the subject of a conformity report prepared by the Agence Nationale de la Géologie et du Contrôle Minier.

Opening of a region which has previously been isolated by barriers will only be possible after authorisation of the Agence National de la Géologie et du Contrôle Minier.

The construction of fire-fighting barriers and opening a region previously isolated by such barriers, is only possible in the presence of a surveillance agent. A rescue team must be ready to intervene.

**Article 11:** The condition of the barriers must be verified at least one a day, including on non working days, by specially designated agents.

**Article 12:** During fire-fighting, the carbon monoxide level must constantly be monitored.

In default of protective devices, personnel must be evacuated as soon as the level reaches danger point.

**Article 13:** This order will be published in the Official Journal of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

***Issued in Algiers on 17 Rabie Ethani 1425 corresponding to 6 June 2004***  
***M.Chakib KHELLIL***