

Fact sheet

Nomination of mine operator and safety training for opal mines

July 2023

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This fact sheet outlines the requirement for the claim holder to nominate a qualified mine operator. Before starting mining operations, the mine holder must provide written notification to the NSW Resources Regulator of the nominated mine operator.

The mine operator is the person in charge of the day-to-day working of the opal mine and must have completed the specified safety training in accordance with Section 8 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022.

What this means

- if the mine holder is the mine operator, the mine holder must give the Regulator notice of this fact before mining operations commence
- if the mine holder of the mine is not the mine operator, the mine holder must give the Regulator notice of the appointment of the mine operator

and

- a person can only be a mine operator if, within the period of five years before the nomination, they have completed the specified safety training
- if the claim holder is the operator, they must have completed the specified safety training within the period of five years before starting any mining operations on the claim
- the mine operator must complete refresher training at least once every five years after having completed the initial safety training
- it is the claim holder's responsibility to ensure that the operator has completed the safety training as required.

What is safety training?

Safety training means a course of training relating to health and safety at opal mines specified by the Regulator.

The training specified by the Regulator is the Opal Mining Safety Workshop. For information about the training or to enrol please visit our [website](#) or scan the QR code.



What if I start mining without nominating a qualified operator?

It is a contravention of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2022 to start mining operations at an opal mine if a mine operator has not been nominated or if the nominated operator has not completed the specified safety training.

If mining operations are occurring at an opal mine under these circumstances, the Regulator may take enforcement action either through the issuing of notices or penalties. Notices may prohibit any further mining operations on that claim (and any other related claims) until the claim holder nominates a qualified mine operator with the Regulator.

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