

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
MINISTRY OF MINES
DIRECTORATE OF POLICY

EXPLOSIVE SAFETY POLICY FOR THE
MINING INDUSTRY

HAMAL 1391

Table of Content	Page
1. Preamble.....	01
2. Objective of the Policy.....	01
3. Legal and Regulatory Framework.....	01
4. Security Risk and Hazards Assessment and Explosive Management Plan.....	02
5. Supply and Authorization.....	02
6. Transportation.....	02
7. Employees Access to Explosives.....	03
8. Operational requirements.....	03
9. Management of Waste and Disposed Explosives.....	03
10. Effectiveness of the Policy.....	04

1. PREAMBLE

The government of Afghanistan is seeking to develop its mineral and petroleum resources. Explosives form the basis for the development of these resources, so a secure supply of explosives and detonator to the mining and petroleum industry is a major challenge to the government of Afghanistan. The explosives are the essential tool for the mining and petroleum industry in one hand while its misuse is a major security risk and is hazardous for the country in other hand. Based on the findings of national security forces, it has been determined that terrorists are using the explosives which are imported for the purpose of mining or other economic sector such as constructions, road and airfield building, municipal works, building of tunnels etc, for their terrorist activities.

Considering security and safety of the community, the president of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan issued a decree No 28, dated 01/11/1388 regarding the banned of imports, production, transportation, use, sale and storage of Ammonium Nitrate- Fertilizer and all other materials that are used in production of explosives.

Hence, the government of Afghanistan endeavors to establish a suitable regulatory framework for the safe import, use, storage and transport of explosives and detonators needed for the economic sector.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to support the development of the mineral and hydrocarbon resources through a safe and secure supply of explosives and effectively manage all security risks and hazards relevant to the import, manufacture, use and storage of explosives used in the mining and petroleum industry.

3. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The explosives safety policy for the mining and petroleum industry is complementary to the National Mining Policy (NMP) and the Hydrocarbon Policy (under formulation) and has been developed on the basis of a presidential decree that obliged Ministry of Mines to develop a regulation for the safe import, manufacture, use, storage and transportation of explosives required for the mining and petroleum industry. The Ministry of Mines in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) will establish a suitable regulatory

framework that will include regulations, guidelines and procedures for the safe import, use, storage and transportation of explosives and detonators used in the mining and petroleum industry. The Ministry of Mines shall ensure that all activities related to explosives are authorized and conducted in full compliance with applicable laws, regulations and requirements, including in particular the requirements of the Ministry of Interior.

4. KEY INSTITUTIONAL PLAYERS

The following government organizations are responsible for the licensing, administration, oversight, safe transportation, security, regulation, fiscal management, environmental management and trade of explosives and detonators needed for the mining and petroleum industry.

- Ministry of Mines (MoM)
- Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
- Ministry of Defense (MoD)
- National Directorate of Security (NDS)
- Ministry of Finance (MoF)
- Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI)
- National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)
- Inter Ministerial Commission (IMC)

5. SECURITY RISKS and HAZARDS ASSESSMENT AND EXPLOSIVES MANAGEMENT PLAN

The mining and petroleum companies that require explosives for their operations will carry out a security risk and hazard assessment which will describe existing security measures and examine the level and type of security risks and hazards to their operations. The assessment should also include the security arrangements of explosives or security sensitive dangerous substances that are vulnerable to theft or sabotage. In clarifying those risks and hazards it is necessary to consider outside threats and also the security risk from staff or contractors who have access to the explosives or security sensitive dangerous

substances. The mining and petroleum companies will develop an Explosive Management Plan (ExMP) that will identify and ensure appropriate safety and security measures for the assessed risks and hazards. All the employees who work at a place where explosives are used, stored or transported are required to obey the ExMP. The ExMP should be updated if there are changes such as site changes affecting explosives, changes in the types of explosives, incident investigation, and corrective action or addressing deficiencies identified from audits of inspection(s).

6. SUPPLY AND AUTHORIZATION OF EXPLOSIVES

Any explosive or detonator imported or manufactured for the mining and petroleum industry must first go through a process of authorization and must be licensed under the explosive legislation of the country. The supplier or manufacturer is required to provide inter alia formulations and explosives characteristic details to the MoI for assessment. The products shall be monitored by the MoM to ensure that authorization has taken place, information is available for safe storage and use of the products and that the supplier is aware of its obligations in providing a product fit for use.

7. TRANSPORTATION

Supply and transport of all explosives and detonators for the mining and petroleum industry shall be conducted safely, securely, and in compliance with the law and regulation of explosives and procedures provided by MoI, MoM and other relevant ministries. Explosives and detonators delivered to any mine or quarry site and or for hydrocarbon exploration must be transported by means authorized under the explosives legislation of the country. Such authorization requires that the vehicles be appropriately designed, equipped and placarded. The driver of those vehicles must be trained in the safe transport of explosives, and be aware of their obligations while transporting explosives.

8. EMPLOYEE'S ACCESS TO EXPLOSIVES

All explosives or detonators in any quantity used in mining and hydrocarbon exploration operations should be handled or controlled by a certified approved handler authorized by the site manager. The approved handler of explosives must have the qualification and

working knowledge of the practical use of explosives which will include the knowledge of equipment and instruments used for carrying out explosive charges and safe and correct techniques for storing, handling, transporting explosives and related substances.

9. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The companies should follow the procedures developed by MoM for the safe storage, transportation, charging and initiation of explosives, treatment of misfires, disposal of unwanted or deteriorated explosives, mixing of explosive and emergency responses. The companies are required to securely store the explosives and detonators in approved separate magazines and isolated from dwellings and other operations. The companies must keep accurate and updated records of magazine stocks that shall include, the description including name and quantity of each item stored in the magazine, quantity of each item removed for a daily job, quantity of each item returned upon completion of job and running total of quantity of stocks on site in order to confirm that no explosive have been lost or stolen.

10. MANAGEMENT OF WASTE AND DISPOSED EXPLOSIVES

Explosives that are considered unsafe for normal transport, storage, or use shall be destroyed. The companies are required to dispose such explosives under the control of a certified approved handler and in accordance with MoM procedures, advice from the manufacturer or supplier, advice from the Ministry of Interior and in accordance with applicable environmental law. Records of the quantities and types of explosives destroyed and the destruction method used shall be kept.

In the event where any cartridge, or part of a cartridge, of explosives is found after shot-firing it should be inserted into another blast-hole in such a manner that it will be completely destroyed when the later shot is fired or should be disposed properly.

11. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POLICY

Explosives Safety policy for the mining industry is effective as of its approval by the Cabinet and is a complementary documents to the National Mining Policy and Hydrocarbon Policy (under formulation) and from which relevant legal and regulatory

Explosives policy

acts may be developed. The Policy shall be reviewed from time to time by Ministry of Mines to take cognizance of changes in standards, regulations and any other matters that may arise from its implementation.