NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Electrical Engineering Safety

Decision Sheet 10.1

Restoration of Ex equipment to its approved / certified condition

A basis for consistent application of Electrical Engineering Safety issues at NSW mines

Decision Sheets are developed by the Inspectors of Electrical Engineering in response to issues raised or questions asked by others in the DPI, in particular Mine Safety Operations and from our external clients. They are for use by any staff in Mine Safety Operations, but primarily by Electrical Engineering staff.
They can be distributed externally to the DPI.

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Preamble

Mines are required to use approved / certified electrical equipment in a hazardous zone. From time to time this equipment is overhauled or repaired at “recognised (licensed) facilities”. The overhaul and repair must return the equipment to a condition that will allow the equipment to conform to its approved / certified condition until the next overhaul. Some approved / certified equipment have flamepaths with

specified flamepath lengths well in excess of the standard requirements, also specified flamepath gaps may be well below the standard requirement.

Issue

What flamepath dimensions should the approved / certified equipment be restored to?

Position

Flamepath lengths should comply with the lengths specified in the drawings used for approval / certification.

Flamepath gaps:

AS/NZS3800 addresses in-service wear of flamepath gaps. At the conclusion of overhaul or repair, flamepath gaps should comply with the requirements of AS/NZS3800 which provides for the flamepath gaps to be at a specified % of the approved / certified flamepath gap. At the conclusion of overhaul or repair, flamepath gaps must not default to the maximum allowable gap as detailed in the approval / certification drawings.