This Code is issued by Mines Rescue Services to provide for additional policies governing rescue services in accordance with Chapter 16 of the Mine Health and Safety Act, 1996.
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INTRODUCTION

1.1 PRE-AMBLE
Mines Rescue Services Pty Ltd is a private sector, non-profit organisation that, through the training of volunteer Rescue Team Members, provides resources and expertise for an effective emergency service primarily to the South African mining industry.

All mines must adhere to provisions of the MHSA and emphasis is drawn to Chapter 16.5 pertaining to emergency preparedness and response. This MRS Code will address the application of those regulations as a mines rescue service provider and to make available resources and processes for a rescue and recovery service to the mining industry. The regulations further require that the service provider establish standards or guidelines for the effective implementation of the regulations in the provision of a mine rescue service.

The Mines Rescue Services Pty Ltd, together with this MRS Code is so established to provide this service and this is done by means of The Rescue Service Scheme that consists of membership between mines for the provision of volunteer Rescue Team Members.

Membership of mines consists of “A” and “B” Class members that enter into an agreement between the participating mine and Mines Rescue Services.

The agreement makes provision for the training of Rescue Team Members, supply of rescue teams on a co-operative basis, the criteria and standards of Rescue Team Members and the provision of equipment. This MRS Code is in addition to applicable regulations and therefore all member mines and Rescue Team Members must adhere and apply to it.

During an emergency on a mine, members of rescue teams will be utilised during these emergencies and these rescue teams will operate under certain conditions/practices as stipulated in this MRS Code as follows:

1.2 DEFINITIONS


“COP” : Code of Practice issued in terms of MHSA.

“Mines Rescue Service Provider” : Organisation to provide mines rescue services in terms of Chapter 16.5 of the MHSA.

“Rescue Team Member” : A person deemed competent as per Chapter 22.15 (16) (b) of the MHSA.

“The Rescue Services Scheme” : A membership agreement between Mines Rescue Services and member mines or affiliated organisations to provide a rescue service.
“A Class Agreement” : A Memorandum of Agreement entered into between a specific mine and Mines Rescue Services whereby the mine maintains rescue team/s in terms of the MHSA.

“B Class Agreement” : A Memorandum of Agreement entered into between Mines Rescue Services and a specific mine that does not maintain a rescue team in terms of the MHSA.

“Rescue Team Member Agreement” : A Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the member mine and the Rescue Team Member.

“Indemnity Scheme” : A scheme that indemnifies certain parties from any claims that may arise during the course of the executions of a Rescue Team Member’s duties as a Bona Fide member of a Rescue Team.

“Ex-Gratia Scheme” : A scheme that compensates Rescue Team Members or their dependants in the event of death or injury resulting in permanent disablement of the Rescue Team Member, who has been called as a Bona Fide member on a Bona Fide call.

“Bona Fide Member” : An employee of a member mine who:
   i) Has been examined by a registered medical practitioner as described, under Medical Examinations in this MRS Code, who is heat tolerant and has passed the prescribed workload test and;
   ii) Has signed the Rescue Team Member’s Agreement and;
   iii) Has been deemed competent by passing the approved course of training as a Rescue Team Member and;
   iv) Adheres to all statutory regulations and criteria as stipulated in the MRS and;
   v) Has a “licence to practice” that is current.

“Rescue Team Member Criteria” : A set of criteria by which mine management and fellow team members select a mine employee as a prospective Rescue Team Member.

“Bona Fide Call” : A call initiated by management of a member mine and/or Mines Rescue Services to call on a Bona Fide Member of a Rescue Team to attend to:
   i) Mining related fires for which they have been trained;
ii) Mining related rescue and recovery operation of any person for which they have been trained or;

iii) Exploratory work in an irrespirable atmosphere that requires the use of breathing apparatus or;

iv) Official formal training at a rescue station or an approved venue as initiated by Mines Rescue Services or;

v) Attending to a planned simulated emergency exercise approved by Mines Rescue Services that involves more than one member mine or;

vi) Reasonable travelling to and from any of the above instances;

“Non-Bona Fide Call” : Instances where *Bona Fide* members are:

i) Undergoing periodical medical examinations;

ii) Attending to rescue room inspections and rescue related meetings or;

iii) Utilised for reconnaissance of mining excavations for geological inspections or;

iv) Utilised for assessments of individual mine production problems unrelated to mines rescue e.g. blocked ore passes or;

v) Apprehending or applying any law enforcement activities and those associated with illegal miners; or

vi) Participating in local individual mine planned simulated emergency exercises or;

vii) Participating in any other incident not referred to the definition of a *Bona Fide call*.

“Prescribed Course of Training” : Any official training provided by Mines Rescue Services or its contractors in accordance with a curriculum and frequency determined by the *MHSA* and/or Mines Rescue Services and/or the Mining Qualification Authority and/or any other recognised body.

“Licence to Practice” : A set of requirements in terms of the *MHSA* to ensure the currency of a *Rescue Team Member* to perform rescue and recovery work.
CHAPTER 2

MINE MEMBERSHIP

2.1 THE RESCUE SERVICES SCHEME
All underground mines are obliged to comply to Regulation 16.5 of the MHSA by entering into a contract with a mines rescue services provider. Mines Rescue Services is an accredited/approved provider by offering a Rescue Services Scheme for membership of mines on a co-operative basis made up of different classes’ membership.

2.2 “A” CLASS MEMBERSHIP
Mines that have to provide and maintain Mine Rescue Teams in terms of the MHSA Regulations are required to become “A” Class members of the Mines Rescue Services. (Refer to Annexure 1 - “A” Class Membership)

2.3 “B” CLASS MEMBERSHIP
Mines that do not have to provide and maintain Mine Rescue Teams in terms of the MHSA Regulations are required to become “B” Class members of the Mines Rescue Services. (Refer to Annexure 2 - “B” Class Membership)

Thus, the essential difference between “A” and “B” Class membership is that the former maintain rescue teams whilst the latter, owing to their limited underground complements, do not, although they can call for assistance through the Mines Rescue Services.

2.4 MEMBER MINE NOTES AND OBLIGATIONS
Explanations to some general clauses of both the “A” and “B” Class Membership Agreements are described as follows:

2.4.1 General Clauses as per the Memorandum of Agreements

a) During an emergency at any member mine that requires the use of mine rescue teams, that a member mine shall make available their mine rescue team/s provided those rescue teams are not actively engaged in mine rescue operations on its own mine.

b) The mine where the Rescue Team Member is employed, is required to pay all the remuneration amounts which each mine Rescue Team Member would have been entitled to, had he/she not been absent from his/her normal work whilst performing mine rescue duties during an emergency. This is in addition to the prevailing scales or rates of payment for active and standby duty and transport expenses in terms of this MRS Code.

c) The mine requiring assistance from other member mines, shall pay the prevailing scales or rates of payment for active and standby duty and transport expenses in terms of this MRS Code to the mine providing assistance.

d) The Mines Rescue Services and its employees, and any mining company from which rescue teams are drawn, and such company’s employees are indemnified against all civil claims and legal action arising from the operations. The mine is liable for its portion of any amount which might become payable under the Indemnity Scheme for a Rescue Team Member. (Refer to Annexure 3)
e) The member mine is liable for its portion of any Ex-Gratia Award which might become payable to any member of a rescue team, or to his/her dependants, in the event that such member suffers accidental injury resulting in permanent disablement or death in the course of, or arising out of, attending of a Bona Fide Call. (Refer to Annexure 4)

f) Mines Rescue Services has the right to call upon the mine to take out a policy of insurance to cover the financial obligations arising from the emergency operation.

2.4.2 Subscription Fees Payable by Mines
Fees are determined annually by the Mines Rescue Services, which are calculated based upon underground labour and tonnage returns submitted by the mines. These fees are payable quarterly in advance.

2.4.3 Rates Payable to Members of Mine Rescue Teams during Bona Fide Calls
Mines Rescue Services will issue annually a table of rates for payment of Mine Rescue Team Members (Refer to Annexure 8).

2.4.4 Costs of Rescue Teams to Mines Receiving Assistance
A mine, making its team/s available to another mine, may charge the mine receiving assistance on the following basis:

a) The actual amounts payable, in terms of this MRS Code to members of rescue teams called out on a Bona Fide call (para 3.4.3), plus any replacement costs of equipment lost or damaged during the incident.

b) The amount of travel allowances paid based on the rate normally paid by the member mine, from the member mine to the assisted mine and back, provided that the number of vehicles used per team shall be limited to three vehicles.

Note: In reference to the payment of travel allowances referred to in (b) above, it is necessary that the member of a mine rescue team, called upon to use his vehicle at the time of a fire or other incident, is adequately insured to cover the vehicle’s use in the course of the employer’s business.

It is recommended for mines to have contingent liability policies to indemnify themselves in the event of claims caused by employees using their own vehicles on company business and mines should ensure that the vehicles of Mine Rescue Team members are insured comprehensively for business purpose. An alternative option could be that mines provide the team with company vehicles to travel to training and/or incidents. (As per above)

2.5 ASSISTANCE TO NON-MEMBER MINES
Attention is drawn to the following clause in the Memorandum of Agreement “A” Class (clause 3.2.2). Mine Rescue teams will only be utilized once Mines Rescue Services and the affected non-member mine has entered into the Agreement/Indemnity for Non-member institutions (Refer to Annexure 5):

The “A” Class member mine shall provide a mine rescue team or teams drawn from volunteers to assist a non-member of the Rescue Services Scheme only if such rescue
work has been approved by the Manager of the mine and the Chief Executive Officer of Mines Rescue Services, or their deputies.

In the absence of such approval, the mine may still call for volunteers, but in such case this work falls outside the ambit of the Rescue Services Scheme and any other agreement pertaining thereto.
CHAPTER 3

RESCUE TEAM MEMBER

The following standards and criteria are required for the Rescue Team Member:

3.1 EXTRACTS FROM MHSA – REQUIREMENTS FOR RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS

Regulation 16.5(3) of the MHSA states:

Every mines rescue service provider, referred to in regulation 16.5(2), must:

a) keep a register of all persons who have been found competent to practice as a Rescue Team Member by that mines rescue service provider.

b) implement and maintain a system to issue licences to practice to persons contemplated in regulation 16.5(3) (a) and who meet such criteria as determined by the rescue service provider, which criteria must include at least the following:

i) The person has not attained the age of 46 years.

ii) The person has been declared medically fit in terms of the requirements of the mine’s “Code of Practice on Minimum Standards of Fitness to Perform Work at the Mine” as may be amended from time to time, prepared in accordance with the Guideline for the Compilation of a Mandatory Code of Practice on Minimum Standards of Fitness to Perform Work at a Mine.

iii) The person has undergone and passed the Heat Tolerance Test, conducted in terms of Chamber of Mines of South Africa Research Organization Research Report No. 29/87 - "A guide to the selection and classification of Rescue Team Members on the basis of Heat tolerance", initially and thereafter at intervals not exceeding 24 months.

iv) The person has undergone four refresher-training sessions per year as determined by the mines rescue service provider. At least 2 of these training sessions per annum must be in a mine or simulated mine, in an atmosphere filled with real or artificial smoke, whilst using a breathing apparatus.

v) The person has undergone and passed the Work Load Test, conducted in terms of the Chamber of Mines of South Africa S & TS Circular No. 39/93 dated 5 April 1993, initially and thereafter at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

c) monitor compliance by persons, issued with a licence to practice by it, with the requirements contemplated in Regulation 16.5(3) (b) and suspend or revoke any such licence if the person no longer meets any of those requirements, and re-issue a licence when the person again meets the requirements.

Regulation 16.5(5) of the MHSA states:

No employer or mines rescue service provider may allow any mine Rescue Team Member contemplated in regulation 16.5(1) (a) to be deployed as a member of a mine rescue team during an emergency unless such mine Rescue Team Member is in possession of a valid licence to practice, as contemplated in regulation 16.5(3) and has passed a pre-operational medical examination, determined by the mines rescue service provider, to ensure that the Rescue Team Member is medically fit at the time to be so deployed.
3.2 RESCUE TEAM MEMBER CRITERIA
Due to the inherent dangers associated with this type of work and in addition to the
requirements of the MHSA, the following minimum additional criteria must be considered
when selecting a new Rescue Team Member:

a) Must have a minimum of 3 years underground experience, and must be 21 years of
   age or older.

b) Must be accepted by fellow team members and adhere to team disciplines.

c) Must have sufficient numeric and English literacy skills at a minimum level of grade
   10.

d) Rescue Team Members can be male or female. No exception will be made with the
   standard of the training and all candidates must pass the prescribed course prior to
   receiving a Licence to Practice as a Rescue Team Member.

3.3 RESCUE TEAM MEMBER AGREEMENT
After selection as a possible member and passing the initial Heat Tolerance Test,
the candidate must enter into the Rescue Team Member Agreement between
him/her self and the mine at which he/she is employed before attending the Initial
Comprehensive Training at Mines Rescue Services. This agreement will cover the
Rescue Team Member in the event of any injuries, payments and assistance from
the mine together with the Rescue Team Member's obligations (Refer to Annexure
6).

3.4 MEDICAL EXAMINATION
a) All Rescue Team Members will undergo the initial medical examinations and shall
   be examined and passed by his/her General Medical Practitioner and the Mine
   Medical Practitioner, as being fit to undergo the Heat Tolerance Test and Initial
course of training. [Refer Licence to Practice MRS/QM/F 122]

b) Attention is directed to the tabulation referred to in the Licence to Practice in which
   provision is made for the criteria of the medical examination.

c) Periodical medical examinations (six monthly) has to be carried out by a Mine
   Medical Practitioner and the results of these examinations must be recorded in the
   Licence to Practice and countersigned by the Mine Medical Practitioner.

d) It is further necessary for members to be medically examined following any illness
   or injury which precludes them from resuming normal work for seven calendar days
   or longer, or after any surgical operation involving more than the integument (skin).

e) It is the responsibility of the Rescue Team Member to ensure that all medical
   examinations are duly completed, signed and stamped by the Mine Medical Practitioner.

f) It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of the respective Rescue Station to
   notify the mine of a member of a Rescue Team when attending training, who has
not undergone, or has an incomplete periodical medical examination in terms of Regulation 16.5(3) (ii).

**g)** A member whose medical records in the Licence to Practice is not in order, will not be trained or allowed underground as an operative Rescue Team Member [Regulation 16.5(5)].

**h)** Since an unfit Rescue Team Member may endanger the lives of other members of rescue teams, strict adherence to the provisions relating to the initial and periodical medical examinations of mine Rescue Team Members is essential.

**i)** Each Rescue Team Member must conform within the limits of the predetermined height/mass nomogram as per the Licence to Practice [with a minimum mass of 55 kg.] Rescue Team Members with a Body Mass Index (BMI) above 35 will be rejected by Mines Rescue Services.

### 3.5 Pre-Operational Medical Examinations

**a)** The deployment of rescue teams underground shall be at the discretion of the manager in control. All rescue teams shall undergo a pre-operational medical examination by a medical officer or medical attendant of the mine, prior to descending the mine, excepting at the sole discretion of the manager when the urgency of the situation may preclude a medical examination by a medical officer or medical attendant. The manager in control should require each member of the rescue team to provide a written declaration of his/her fitness, certified by the manager in control. (Refer to MRS/QM/F 013)

**b)** Rescue teams should be medically examined on their own mine before they depart to assist another mine.

**c)** This pre-operational medical examination may be carried out up to twelve (12) hours before the team members report at the emergency control centre of the affected mine. However, if more than six (6) hours has elapsed since undergoing this pre-operational medical examination, an additional declaration of fitness must be completed prior to descent underground.

**d)** In the absence of the medical officer, a medical attendant may perform pre-operational medical examinations of Rescue Team Members, being a medical station superintendent or other suitably trained person as nominated by the medical officer of the mine.

**e)** Pre-operational alcohol breathalyser tests must be taken. Reject if any trace of alcohol is found.

**f)** When members of rescue teams are called upon to wear breathing apparatus, they should have a minimum period of twelve hours rest after wearing the apparatus. In the event of an emergency on his/her own mine within the 12 hour rest period, a Rescue Team Member may be utilised on his/her own mine, provided he/she has been examined and passed a pre-operational medical examination by a medical officer or attendant.
3.6 **HEAT TOLERANCE TESTING**

a) It is a requirement that, after selection as a prospective member and the initial medical examination, new members undergo and pass the Heat Tolerance Test prior to undergoing initial training.

b) Every member will thereafter undergo and pass a Heat Tolerance Test at intervals not exceeding 24 months, the results of which will be entered in the *Licence to Practice*.

c) *Rescue Team Members* can, where deemed necessary by the Superintendent of a Rescue Station, be subjected to additional Heat Tolerance Testing.

d) It is further necessary for members to undergo a Heat Tolerance Test following any illness or injury which precludes them from resuming normal work for seven calendar days or longer, or after any surgical operation involving more than the integument (skin).

3.7 **PRESCRIBED COURSE OF TRAINING**

Once a new candidate has passed the Initial Medical, Heat Tolerance Test and applicable pre-screening, he/she will be required to attend and pass an initial course of training as prescribed by Mines Rescue Services.

3.8 **MEASURED WORK LOAD TEST**

a) The candidate who has passed the initial course of training will be required to pass the Measured Work Load Test to be deemed competent as a *Rescue Team Member*.

b) Thereafter each *Rescue Team Member* will be required to pass the Measured Work Load Test at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

c) *Rescue Team Members* can be, where deemed necessary, subjected to additional Measured Work Load Tests following changes in circumstances.

d) It is further necessary for members to undergo a Measured Workload Test following any illness or injury which precludes them from resuming normal work for seven calendar days or longer, or after any surgical operation involving more than the integument (skin).

3.9 **QUARTERLY TRAINING**

*Rescue Team Members* are required to attend 4 refresher trainings per year at venues prescribed by Mines Rescue Services. At least 2 of these training(s) sessions per annum must be in a mine or simulated mine, in an atmosphere filled with real or artificial smoke, whilst using a breathing apparatus.
3.10 **LICENCE TO PRACTICE**

A requirement of the MHSA Regulation 16.5(3) (b) is that Mines Rescue Services must issue a Licence to Practice for a Rescue Team Member. The currency of this Licence to Practice will depend on the Rescue Team Member’s completion of all of the above criteria and this licence may be suspended, revoked or terminated based on the following:

~**Suspension of Licence to Practice:** When a Licence to Practice is withdrawn temporarily for a period of time, until certain criteria have been met by the licence holder/Rescue Team Member.

~**Revoking of Licence to Practice:** When a Licence to Practice is withdrawn until the Rescue Team Member meets all the criteria including the completion of the Initial Comprehensive Course.

~**Termination of Licence to Practice:** When a licence to practice is permanently terminated or removed and cannot be re-issued.

### 3.10.1 Suspension of Licence to Practice:

When a Rescue Team Member fails to attain the following minimum requirements his/her Licence to Practice will be suspended:

a) Failing periodical medical examination e.g. over weight limit, hypertension, illness, etc.

b) Failing Heat Tolerance Test.

c) Failing Measured Workload Test.

d) Off sick for seven days or longer, or undergoing a surgical procedure involving more than the skin, or reportable accident at work.

e) Failing to attend or pass quarterly training as prescribed in chapter 16.5(3) (iv) of the MHSA, 1996 (Act no 29 of 1996) and as referred to in paragraph 3.9 above.

f) When found not competent by the service provider during quarterly training or while deployed at an incident.

g) When in breach of Memorandum of Agreement or Code of Conduct, signed between the member and the mine.

h) Resignation as a Rescue Team Member.

i) Misconduct pending an enquiry relating to any Mines Rescue Services protocols.

Where a Rescue Team Member’s licence has been suspended that Rescue Team Member may not perform other related work i.e. rope rescue etc.

### 3.10.2 Conditions for Re-Instatement after suspension:

A Rescue Team Member may be re-instated after suspension due to those requirements above and once the following criteria related to those requirements have been met:
a) Passed periodical medical examination and therefore compliance to the *MRS Code* for medical screening as referred to 3.10.1(a) above.

b) Successfully passing the HTT within 30 – 90 days after failing it as referred to 3.10.1(b) above.

c) Successfully passing the W.L.T. within 30 days after failing it as referred to 3.10.1(c) above.

d) After being off-sick for seven days or longer, or undergone a surgical procedure involving more than the skin, or reportable accident at work, will be required to meet the requirements of 3.10.2(a), (b) and (c) above.

e) Due to non-attendance at quarterly training as referred to in 3.10.1(e) above, provided a candidate presents himself/herself and passes the quarterly training at the next available date and meets those requirements of the *MHSA*.

f) When found competent by the service provider following supplementary training applicable to the suspension due to the criteria referred in 3.10.1(f) above.

g) When no longer in breach of Memorandum of Agreement or Code of Conduct, signed between the *Rescue Team Member* and the mine.

h) When reinstated as a *Rescue Team Member* at any member mine.

i) Being found not guilty after an enquiry relating to any Mines Rescue Services protocols.

Where a member has not yet passed medical referred to in para (a) above, and/or did not pass HTT within 90 days referred to in para (b) above, and/or did not pass the WLT within 30 days as referred to in para (c) above, and/or has not met any of the other requirements as stipulated above, and/or more than 180 days have passed without attending refresher trainings, the *Rescue Team Member’s Licence to Practice* will be revoked and he/she will be required to re-do and pass the Initial Comprehensive Course.

### 3.10.3 Revoking of Licence to Practice:

Where a *Rescue Team Members* fails to meet the criteria in 3.10.2 above his/her *Licence to Practice* will be revoked. A member’s *Licence to Practice* can only be reinstated when he/she has successfully completed the Initial Comprehensive Course.

### 3.10.4 Termination of Licence to Practice:

A *Rescue Team Member’ Licence to Practice* will be terminated permanently and will not be reinstated under the following conditions:

a) After revoking and failing to lift the revocation due to the criteria referred to 3.10.3 above.

b) Dismissed by MRS due to Code of Conduct, insubordination, negligence, fraud, theft, incompetence, putting other member’s lives at risk etc. following a due disciplinary process and a fair judgement from a hearing official.
c) Attained the age of 46.

3.11 **THE RESCUE TEAM**

In terms of the *MHSA*, a Rescue Team will consist of at least 5 competent persons. It is a requirement of this Code that one person will be appointed as Rescue Team Captain and a second person as Rescue Team Vice-Captain. Refer to Section 5.2.3 for the composition of a rescue team.

The duties and responsibilities of the Rescue Team Captain and Vice-Captain together with a template for the appointment of these incumbents is referred to in Annexure 9.

3.12 **OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATION – MINES RESCUE SERVICE WORKER**

Mines Rescue Services is accredited to assess learners, based on prescribed criteria, in order that they qualify for the above qualification as registered by the South African Qualifications Authority.
CHAPTER 4

GENERAL RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 MINE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

4.1.1 General Appointments

4.1.1.1 Rescue Team Manager (RM):

The Employer of every mine /group of mines as indicated in the “A” Class Memorandum of Agreement, shall ensure the appointment of a Rescue Team Manager. There shall be at least one Rescue Team Manager appointed per mine by the Mine Manager who shall ensure that he/she is delegated the written authority to perform his/her functions. The Rescue Team Manager should preferably be an ex-Rescue Team Member and a person who has attended the Control Room Management course. The Rescue Team Manager does not have to be the holder of a Mine Manager’s Certificate of Competency but should be at an applicable senior level. The Rescue Team Manager may appoint a Rescue Manager Liaison Officer (RMLO) to assist him/her with some administrative duties. The duties and responsibilities of the Rescue Team Manager shall include, but not be limited to the following:

a) Ensure compliance with the MHSA Chapter 16 – Emergency Preparedness and Response as far as provision of rescue teams, licence to practice and establishment of control rooms are concerned.

b) Prepare a budget for rescue teams including quarterly fees, trust fees, Ex-Gratia payments, long service awards, and retainers of Rescue Team Members, training, equipment and maintenance of equipment. You should further ensure that procedures are in place for payment to Mines Rescue Services and for claims and payment of Rescue Team Members when operating on own mine.

c) Liaison between Rescue Team Members, Heads of Departments and Mines Rescue Services. MRS will provide you with all the training dates and will contact you when teams are required for fires/emergencies. Inform HOD’s when Rescue Team Members attend fires/incidents or training. Inform MRS when on leave and give contact details of relieving Rescue Team Manager.

d) Co-ordinate Rescue team activities by ensuring rescue teams maintain minimum strengths as stipulated in terms of Chapter 16.5 of the MHSA. Arrange recruitment and attend the interview session of new Rescue Team Member candidates. Accommodate graduates and diplomats as additional members where possible to gain experience. Check that duty rosters are in place to ensure that rescue teams are readily available to respond to fires/incidents. Ensure that Rescue Team Members attend scheduled trainings at Mines Rescue Services. Attend monthly rescue team meetings where possible. Visit rescue rooms monthly and sign the weekly/ monthly register. Promote the wellbeing of his/her Rescue Team Members.

e) Ensure that control rooms meet the minimum standards and ensure that the necessary personnel are appointed and attend the Control Room Managers course.

f) Ensure that a sufficient supply of Firefighting and Rescue equipment is available on the mine and ensure that persons are appointed to check and report on equipment.
g) Report to the Mine manager on any problems as far as an emergency and response is concerned and inform MRS when rescue teams are being deployed for bone fide and non-bone fide

The above duties and responsibilities of the Rescue Team Manager, together with a sample appointment, are referred to in Annexure 9.

4.1.1.2 Rescue Team Member:
The Rescue Team Manager will appoint sufficient Rescue Team Members where applicable. They have to be persons with a minimum of 3 years underground experience and must volunteer to become a Rescue Team Member. They have to complete the Initial Course of Training as prescribed by Mines Rescue Services.

4.1.1.3 Rescue Team Vice-Captain:
The Rescue Team Manager will appoint the Rescue Team Vice-Captain who will be selected from the Rescue Team Members. This person must have a minimum of five quarterly trainings and/or attended a minimum of five underground fires under the guidance of an appointed Rescue Team Captain, as well as have completed the Advance Course of Training as prescribed by Mines Rescue Services.

4.1.1.4 Rescue Team Captain:
The Rescue Team Manager will appoint the Rescue Team Captain who must have all the qualifications and experience of a Rescue Team Vice-Captain as described above. His/her duties and responsibilities shall include but not be limited to the following:

a) Lead and supervise the rescue team in his/her charge.
b) In addition to the MRS Code of Conduct, compile a Team Code of Conduct for the rescue team's own domestic culture.
c) Maintain the rescue room and all apparatus and equipment therein to the standards prescribed by Mines Rescue Services.
d) Ensure weekly and monthly inspections of apparatus and equipment by the appointed Rescue Team Members is carried out.
e) Ensure compliance of all periodic and pre-operational medial examination requirements by all Rescue Team Members.
f) Maintain adequate stock levels of medical oxygen, soda lime and other items required by the rescue team.
g) Ensure compliance to the MRS Code and the MHSA relevant to mines rescue work.
h) Ensure that all duties and disciplines required by the MRS Code and the Memorandum of Agreement are maintained by all Rescue Team Members to the highest possible standards.
i) Ensure that adequate provision is made for the rapid response and mobilisation of the team when called upon.
j) Compile a leave roster for the Rescue Team Members.
k) Submit claims for approval for work performed during Bona-fide calls in terms of the MRS Code to the Rescue Team Manager.
l) Submit claims for approval of work performed during non Bona-fide calls in terms of the agreement between the mine and the Rescue Team Members.
m) Inform all relevant parties (MRS, Time Office) when a Rescue Team Member's Memorandum of Agreement terminates.
n) Take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of the rescue team at all times
o) Ensure that all *Rescue Team Members* follow a lifestyle conducive to maintaining the required standard of physical fitness.

p) Report to the Rescue Team Manager on all of the above.

### 4.1.2 **General Provisions**

#### a) *Emergency Control Room*

The Manager will identify and make available areas suitable for the use as an emergency control centre. Apart from the minimum requirements, these centres will be further equipped with additional structures/resources when rescue teams are deployed. The MRS may assist mines by inspecting these facilities and can make recommendations for improvement.

#### b) *Rescue Room:*

A building that is suitable for the storage, maintaining and cleaning of all rescue equipment and shall be appropriately located at the mine in order to reduce the emergency response time. The building ideally should include sufficient ablution facilities, unrestricted packing and storage space and a venue that is conducive of rescue team activities.

#### c) *Mines Rescue Regalia:*

In order to promote uniformity and pride in a rescue team, all *Rescue Team Members* must wear the prescribed blazer with Lurex badge, MRS tie or equivalent for females and other MRS regalia where required. The mine shall provide the minimum regalia in order that this etiquette is achieved and this shall include at least the MRS Tie.

#### d) *Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):*

In order to obtain uniformity of practice on the mines, it is necessary that each *Rescue Team Member* on appointment be issued with a MRS approved hard hat, two overalls, SABS approved safety belt with duel “D” links and an approved SABS link line (This belt only serves as a restraining device). In addition the mine must provide one pair of boots, two pairs of socks, a suitable jacket for underground use, one towel and a kit bag to carry the PPE.

Such kit:

i) Has to be worn at all time during emergencies in order to protect the *Rescue Team Member* as well as make him/her identifiable and wearing just T-shirts and PT shorts are not permitted.

ii) Will remain the property of the mine.

iii) Has to be maintained in good condition, i.e. articles to be replaced when necessary by the mine.

iv) Has to be stored in the rescue room on the mine or, at the discretion of the Rescue Team Manager, be retained by *Rescue Team Members*.

v) Has to be used only for training purposes and for fires and underground rescue operations.
e) **Reflective Material:**
In order to assist members of rescue teams to be more visible whilst operating in dense smoke, reflective tape shall be clearly secured on the breathing apparatus and on hard hats of Rescue Team Members.

f) **Overalls:**
For the same reason as given in the preceding paragraph, Rescue Team Members during emergencies underground shall only wear white cotton overalls.

g) **Hard Hats:**
All Rescue Team Members shall be provided with and wear approved white hard hats. The Rescue Team Captain shall wear an approved yellow hard hat and the Vice-Captain an approved red hard hat for ease of identification.

h) **Oxygen Breathing Apparatus:**
The mine shall provide each member of the rescue team with a personally allocated complete closed-circuit breathing apparatus as approved by MRS.

i) **Compressed Oxygen Cylinders:**
Oxygen Storage Cylinders for mine rescue rooms must be medical oxygen of not less than the required purity of 98%.

j) **Marking of Apparatus and Equipment:**
All apparatus and equipment should be clearly marked with some means of identification of the mine to which they belong in accordance with MRS standards.

k) **Communications:**
The mine to provide sufficient means of effective communication between rescue teams and the control room.

l) **Ancillary Equipment:**
The mine must provide all the additional auxiliary equipment as per the Auxiliary Equipment List issued by Mines Rescue Services and this will include:

i) **Gas Detector:**
Each team must be equipped with an approved electronic gas detector, which can measure Oxygen, Methane and Carbon Monoxide. This instrument must be taken to all fires, emergencies and training.

ii) **Long Duration Self Contained Self Rescuers:**
A supply of MRS approved Long Duration Self Contained Self Rescuers (a minimum of one per Rescue Team Member) will be provided by the Mine and will only be used by trained Rescue Team Members and not for any purpose other than to rescue personnel trapped by smoke, fumes or noxious gases

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**4.2 RULES REGARDING RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS’ DUTIES**

**4.2.1 Rules:**
The following rules regarding Rescue Team Member’s duties must be adhered to at all times:
a) Breathing apparatus must always be kept in the rescue room assigned for that purpose, except when in use or where otherwise agreed to upon by the mine.

b) Each member of the rescue team will be responsible for the breathing apparatus assigned to him/her including the weekly / monthly inspections. During his/her leave of absence, another member of the rescue team will be appointed by the Rescue Team Captain to discharge this duty.

c) An Inspection Register will be kept in the rescue room and members of the rescue team must record the date of each weekly inspection of their breathing apparatus and ancillary equipment and report any defects or loss of parts. At least once per month the Rescue Team Member must test the breathing apparatus in accordance with the checklist provided in the inspection register. Each report must be signed in the allocated area provided, whether or not any defects are noted. The Rescue Team Captain will inspect and sign the Inspection Register on a weekly basis and the Rescue Team Manager on a monthly basis.

d) At least once a month the Rescue Team Captain shall ensure that the contents of the oxygen cylinders in the oxygen storage area meet the prescribed pressures.

e) In the event of an emergency, members of the rescue teams must report and be able to respond to an emergency in a reasonable time.

f) Members of rescue teams are expected to maintain the cleanliness of equipment and rescue room to prescribed standard.

g) Rescue Team Members must ensure that no person, other than current Rescue Team Members or MRS personnel, are permitted to interfere with rescue and breathing apparatus at any time.

h) It is the responsibility of the Rescue Team Member to record all rescue work performed in his/her Licence to Practice while active.

i) Male members may have a moustache but must be otherwise clean-shaven and sideburns must not extend below the middle of the ear. Rescue Team Members not shaven in accordance with these requirements, will be refused to commence with training and will not be allowed the use of a breathing apparatus during an emergency.

4.2.2 Mobilisation of Rescue Teams as per Regulation 16.5 (4) of the MHSA
To facilitate the rapid mobilisation of Rescue Team Members, each mine and rescue team shall have a system whereby the mobilisation of the team is conducted as effectively and in the shortest possible time. The system shall include communications to Rescue Team Members that are underground or on surface, transport of teams/members, collection of equipment etc. In order to further facilitate rapid mobilisation after hours, rescue teams must have a standby duty roster which will ensure that they are available at short notice.

4.2.3 Composition of Rescue Teams
a) Every operating rescue team must consist of not less than five (5) competent Rescue Team Members that are available to render an emergency service. A
further minimum of two (2) *Rescue Team Members* should be retained to provide for the absence of members on leave, illness, training etc.

b) Each operating rescue team must consist of at least 2 *Rescue Team Members* with mine production experience or with knowledge and experience to read underground mine plans.

**4.2.4 Injury to a Rescue Team Member whilst deployed**

The Rescue Team Captain must report to the Manager in Control / the MRS Official any illness, injury or casualties amongst the *Rescue Team Members*.

In addition to, or in the absence of the Rescue Team Captain/Vice-Captain, each *Rescue Team member* to report his/her injuries to the Manager in control/MRS official.

A specialist pathologist post mortem examination will be performed on any *Rescue Team Member* who dies as a result of mine emergency operations.
CHAPTER 5

PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, EXPLOSION OR INCIDENT

5.1 INITIAL ACTION BY MINE

a) If the precise position of the fire is not known, and it is possible to explore from the fresh air intake side of the fire, the necessary number of search parties will be dispatched to search for the fire. Each party will consist of at least three persons in the charge of a senior official, who must take with him/her approved instruments for the detection of toxic gases and deficiency of oxygen. No risks are to be taken by these parties who will withdraw immediately if any sign of toxic/harmful gas or smoke is detected.

b) All parties must be given definite tasks and defined routes from which they must not deviate. A time limit must be fixed on which the parties must return or report back with a message to a base.

c) When dispatching a rescue team/s during an emergency underground, Mines Rescue Services must be notified as soon as possible of the occurrence.

5.2 WHEN THE POSITION OF THE FIRE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED

a) If the fire is small and readily accessible from the intake (fresh air) side, the fire can be extinguished using competent mine personnel.

b) If the fire cannot be extinguished by mine personnel, rescue teams will be deployed.

c) Fresh Air Base Procedure:
   i) If any emergency requires the use of rescue teams wearing breathing apparatus, a Fresh Air Base must be established. No person other than a member of a rescue team is permitted to go beyond this Fresh Air Base.

   ii) When a rescue team is deployed beyond the fresh air base, a second rescue team will be at the Fresh Air Base to back-up the operating rescue team. In addition to the back-up rescue team and if necessary, other rescue teams could be placed on standby.

   iii) The Rescue Team Captain/s are responsible and in charge of operations beyond the Fresh Air Base. All instructions, actions or reports will be communicated between the Fresh Air Base and the Control Room.

   iv) Operating Rescue Teams may not be split or divided into smaller teams under any circumstances.

d) If the nature of the incident requires the services of additional rescue teams, the Control Room Manager will request Mines Rescue Services to requisition such rescue teams.

e) Mines Rescue Services will provide rescue teams from other member mines or composite rescue team/s (see para 5.3.7 below) and will co-ordinate and facilitate the deployment of these teams.
5.3 **RESCUE TEAM**

5.3.1 **Limitations of Rescue Team Members**

a) The effectiveness of a *Rescue Team Member* wearing a breathing apparatus and working in hot, humid conditions and poor visibility, can be between 10% and 40% of his/her normal work output.

b) *Rescue Team Members* who are called out after working a full shift underground will further be impaired.

c) The main causes of *Rescue Team Member's* fatalities are:
   i) Less than 5 *Rescue Team Members* in the rescue team due to team splitting.
   ii) No means of communication between operating rescue team and Fresh Air Base.
   iii) No back-up rescue team.
   iv) No medical examination or pre-operational declaration of fitness prior to entering the mine.
   v) Reconnaissance into old sealed areas causing heat stroke or heat related distress.
   vi) Insufficient rest periods between operational shifts (12 hours required) and
   vii) Fatigue due to long hours worked and arduous tasks.

5.3.2 **Deployment of Rescue Teams**

A rescue team should only be assigned to specialised tasks for which they have been trained. The Manager in Control must consult with the MRS Official in the control room on the deployment of rescue teams.

The following must apply for the utilisation of rescue teams when using breathing apparatus:

a) **Emergency Work**: i.e. fires, explosions, re-opening of sealed areas or;

b) **Exploratory Work**: i.e. reconnaissance, examination of old areas, supervision of holing, search and recovery of missing persons, which requires fully equipped rescue teams;

c) Minimum of 2 (two) teams as follows:
   1 (one) operating team
   1 (one) back-up team at the Fresh Air Base

d) Depending on underground operational conditions, additional teams may be required underground or on surface standby. The number of teams required, would be determined after consultation between mine management and Mines Rescue Services staff. Depending on circumstances, 1 back-up team could cover several areas, if operating teams utilise a common Fresh Air Base.

5.3.3 **Duration of a Call Out**

The following will apply to the duration of a rescue team's call-out to a mine:

a) On arrival at the mine, standby period on surface must not exceed 2 hours.
b) Total time underground should not exceed 12 hours. Rescue teams should be deployed on definite pre-planned underground tasks, where the 4 hour oxygen capacity of the breathing apparatus is fully utilised.

5.3.4 Schedule of Team Movements
The manager in control should have available, for easy scrutiny, a schedule for the control of operating rescue teams. This will assist the manager in:

a) The arrangement of a roster for the call out of teams;

b) Control of the time spent by teams at the mine;

c) Control of the location of rescue teams and
d) Efficient usage of teams, to avoid over or under utilisation of teams covering any operation.

5.3.5 Briefing of Teams
All of the requirements of the MHSA must be complied with during the briefing of rescue teams.

a) The brief must be conducted by the Manager in Control who will consult with the Mines Rescue Services official.

b) All relevant instructions must be written in duplicate on a prescribed form and contain at least the following:
   i) List of known and anticipated hazards and risks to be expected in and around the area of the emergency;
   ii) Route and guide;
   iii) Alternative escape route;
   iv) Work to be done;
   v) Material available;
   vi) Which teams to work with/relieve;
   vii) Time intervals for reporting progress;
   viii) From whom they take instructions;
   ix) To whom must they report and
   x) The rescue team must be provided a plan of the affected area.

5.3.6 Disclosure of Sensitive Information
The Manager in control may request Rescue Team Members to sign a Disclosure of Information form (Refer to Annexure 7), which will prevent Rescue Team Members from disclosing any sensitive information relating to the rescue work to any third party, except with the prior consent of the official in charge of operations.

5.3.7 Composite Rescue Teams provided by MRS

Rapid mobilisation of Rescue Teams.
Regulation 16.5 (4) of the MHSA of 1996 states: “Whenever an emergency occurs at a mine that requires the deployment of mine rescue teams, the employer and any mines rescue service provider notified in terms of regulation 15.5(1) (d) and whose assistance has been requested, must take reasonable measures to ensure that the required mine rescue teams are deployed as soon as possible.”
To ensure rapid mobilisation of rescue teams the following will apply:

**During normal working hours.**

a) To facilitate the rapid mobilisation of rescue teams in the case of an emergency, member mines who maintain rescue team/s, must have a system whereby *Rescue Team Members* who are underground, can be located and contacted as soon as possible.

b) Rescue teams who are undergoing training at a Rescue Station, can be deployed from that Rescue Station immediately.

c) In the event where rescue teams are not immediately available from a member mine or from a Rescue Station, the following will apply:
   i) The Superintendent of the affected Rescue Station, or his deputy, will contact *Rescue Team Members* working in the vicinity of the affected Rescue Station, informing them of the emergency and that they must reply if they are available.
   ii) The Superintendent or his deputy must select the first 5 suitable *Rescue Team Members* who must report to the Rescue Station as soon as possible.
   iii) On arrival at the Rescue Station, the Superintendent or his Deputy will nominate the Captain and Vice-Captain of the rescue team.
   iv) The team will be supplied with the apparatus kept and maintained at the Rescue Station.
   v) All the protocols for the deployment of Rescue Teams will be followed.
   vi) A staff member of the Rescue Station will accompany the Rescue Team to the mine where the emergency occurred.

**After normal working hours.**

Member mines who maintain team/s must have a system whereby rescue team/s are performing stand-by duties and are contactable when required after normal working hours. The procedure described in para c above can also be implemented if rescue teams are not available.