

Risk categories

Risk categories are used to determine the level of risk for a coal mine worker's position, based on the tasks they perform.



Medical conditions and risk management

In the NSW coal industry, positions range from office-based duties to operating equipment in open cut, underground, and industrial environments, often in dynamic workplace conditions.

Each position has different levels of risk, and coal mine workers must be physically and psychologically able to perform their tasks safely and respond effectively to changes and hazards using sound perception and judgment.

Medical conditions, disabilities, and/or treatments may affect these capabilities, potentially leading to serious incidents that may impact the coal mine worker and/or others.

Purpose of risk categories

Risk categories help approved medical practitioners select the most appropriate medical investigations when assessing a coal mine worker's fitness for work, particularly when a medical condition has been identified.

This approach helps reduce unnecessary follow-ups and testing, while supporting health assessments in line with relevant NSW Coal Industry Health Standards.

Employers must notify the approved medical practitioner of the risk category for a coal mine worker's position whenever the coal mine worker attends a health assessment or health assessment review.

Determining risk categories for coal mine workers

Employers are responsible for assessing coal mine worker positions and determining their corresponding risk category.

This assessment is based on the nature of the tasks performed and the potential consequences to themselves and others if the coal mine worker has an unavoidable and/or sudden medical incapacity.

As part of this process, employers may also consult with coal mine workers to help further support and inform the risk assessment.

NSW coal industry contractors should work closely with host site employers to ensure their risk categorisation aligns with the site requirements.

Risk categories

There are 3 risk categories, as follows:

- Category A: Safety critical
- Category B: Safety sensitive
- Category C: Non-safety sensitive

More information

Risk Category Guidelines outline clear steps for employers when assigning risk categories for coal mine workers.

These guidelines, and other information about risk categories, are available on the Coal Services website.

www.coalservices.com.au