

WHITFIELD COLLIERY

TIMBERING AND PACKING

Notice required by Coal Mines Act, 1911, Section 50 (4).

ANY PERSON WHO DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE UNDER-
MENTIONED RULES WILL BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION UNDER
THE COAL MINES ACT, 1911.

TIMBERING AND OTHER ROOF SUPPORTS AT THE COAL FACE IN ALL SEAMS

1. As soon as sufficient coal has been got off, props or other supports shall be properly set in rows parallel with the face in order to prevent accidental falls of roof and coal.

The dimensions given below are the maximum distances allowed, but, where it is necessary for safety a workman shall set supports at intervals less than the specified maximum distances.

BETWEEN EACH ROW OF PROPS ...	4' 6"
BETWEEN ADJACENT PROPS IN THE SAME ROW	4' 6"
BETWEEN THE FRONT ROW OF PROPS AND THE FACE	
WHERE OVERCUTTING ...	4' 6"
do UNDERCUTTING ...	3' 6"
BETWEEN HOLING BLOCKS OR SPRAGS	5' 0"

On OVERCUT faces, an additional row of props shall be set to the roof behind the cutting machine, 4' 6" apart in the row and not more than 1' 6" from the face, and the last prop so set shall be within 10 feet of the machine.

Where the thickness of the seam exceeds 4' 6" stretchers or sprags shall be set to secure the upper part of the seam before the coal is undercut.

2. Where required by the manager, undermanager or overman, bars shall be used as roof supports at the face. The props set to bars shall be subject to the same maximum distances as other props. No bar shall be considered properly set unless a prop is securely fixed under both ends excepting where bars are notched into the coal face at one end and in that case the end of the bar must be let into the coal at least 6".

3. All bannock or overhanging coal must be properly spragged.

4. The roof immediately over the conveyor engine and the place where the driver stands shall be supported by steel girders not more than 4' 6" apart, set parallel with the face. Where the fireman or contractor considers it necessary, covering timber shall be set in order to prevent any fall of roof.

5. Chocks shall be set as instructed by the fireman or other official.

6. From the ripping lip to the face the roof shall be supported by steel girders set at right angles to the road. The girders shall be not more than 4' 6" apart and shall have at least three props set under each girder. The fireman shall examine the face of the ripping, and where he considers it necessary to be supported, he shall specify the method and order the fixing of supports.

TIMBERING IN THE ROADWAYS.

7. In roadways, in all parts requiring support, the supports shall be fixed at a distance apart not exceeding 4' 6". Sufficient covering timber shall be fixed in order to prevent falls of roof or side coming from the spaces between the permanent supports.

PACKING AND WITHDRAWAL OF SUPPORTS AT THE COAL FACE AND ELSEWHERE UNDERGROUND

It is important for underground workers to understand that well made packs, built at the earliest possible moment, are the colliers' principal security against falls of roof. Poor packing, or packing done too late makes a good roof bad, but, on the other hand, a naturally bad roof will be made much less dangerous by good packing done in time.

8. (a) The building of all packs shall be properly finished, the dirt filling must be solidly packed up to the roof, and the walls well-built and wedged tightly to the roof. No props, bars, or other supports (either set or lying loose) or coal, or anything other than the proper packing material, shall be put into or left in the pack.
- (b) Regular waste packs shall be not less than 4 yards wide and no waste shall be more than 6 yards wide.
- (c) The pack on the headside of a main level must be not less than 8 yards wide and the deepside pack not less than 5 yards wide.
- (d) The above specified dimensions of packs and wastes may only be altered by order of the manager or under-manager.
- (e) The widths of packs and wastes mentioned in these rules shall be measured at right angles to the sides of the packs.

Withdrawal of Supports.

9. (a) All props and other roof supports shall be systematically withdrawn from wastes and areas to be packed.

- (b) Immediately before any prop is withdrawn from a waste the person engaged in the withdrawal operation shall examine carefully the roof within a radius of five yards. This examination to be in addition to any examination made by the fireman.
- (c) No prop shall be withdrawn otherwise than by a "Sylvester" or other similar appliance unless the fireman or his superior officer has given permission for the appliance to be dispensed with.
- (d) Sprags shall be withdrawn by a "Sylvester" or knocked out by a long prop. No person may stand in front or immediately on the low side of coal when a sprag is being withdrawn.
- (e) All supports when withdrawn shall be removed from the waste and shall be left in an upright position in front of the pack, or in other conspicuous position so that they will be readily available for re-using.

BY ORDER OF THE MANAGER.

12th June, 1942.