

Blue Banner

HSE General Notice

Iron Ore

Type of notification	Safety	Date	15 July 2019
Summary statement	Under rated fire blanket		
Details / pictures			

After a recent investigation review completed by a WA Iron Ore producer, it was identified that the welding blankets being used was a major contributing factor to a fire event that occurred on their site. Current specification and procedures did not recommend ratings on welding blankets and upon further review of their current welding blankets identified that their issued welding blankets were only rated for 250 to 550 C.

To mitigate and limit the potential exposure to under rated fire blankets at Cape Lambert, a full review was complete on all current stock holding and issued fire blankets from the Cape Lambert tool store. The review revealed that we are carrying the potential risk of under rated welding blankets being issued and used across site.

The Silica Vermiculate Blankets have been sourced and ordered. Further communication will be given once the new welding blankets arrive. Until the new blankets arrive on site the Fibreglass blankets will still continue to be issued. When completing task that have the potential to generate heat greater the 500 C with direct exposure to the welding blanket for anytime greater then 10sec adequate controls such as running water shall be implemented to control the exposure.

Test Results			
<i>(Realistic Test - Gouging Plate from height of 2000 mm, with blanket directly on screen, commonly practiced on site)</i>			
Blanket	Time Taken for Blanket Failure <i>(Timed from when first slag has hit the blanket)</i>		Gouged Plate Temperature
	Dry Blanket	Wet Blanket	
250 C Leather Blanket <i>(Current)</i>	23 Sec	31 Sec	875 – 1100 C <i>(Light Red - Light Orange in Colour – Steel/Temp Chart)</i>
500 C Fibreglass Blanket <i>(Current)</i>	Failed in preliminary tests	Failed in preliminary tests	
1100 C Silica Vermiculate Blanket <i>(Recommended)</i>	Slag did not penetrate blanket	Slag did not penetrate blanket	

Next steps

- Implement controls to limit potential fire risk when using the current Fibreglass welding blankets
- Communicate to all FTE and contractor partners of the current rating of our welding blankets
- Source and procure Silica Vermiculate Blankets

Contact person	CL Cranes and Belts Superintendent (A)
Contact number (or email)	Joshua.buggy@riotinto.com
Distribution of notice to	Cape Lambert Employees and Contract Partners