

BEST PRACTICES: Turning a Crosscut with a Remote-controlled CM

#6 - Using visual indicators, such as reflective markers

Ultimately, individual remote-controlled continuous mining machine operators are responsible for selecting a safe operating position based on personal preferences and site specific conditions (e.g. roof or rib conditions). Although “prescribed” operator positions may be undesirable, establishing “no work/travel” zones is always appropriate. Regulations require that a “visible warning or physical barrier” be placed to indicate the end of permanent roof support. This best practice suggests that, in addition to what is required by 75.208, reflective markers be placed on the second row of bolts outby the crosscut being mined and also on the second line of bolts across the entry from the crosscut being mined. These markers will serve as a conspicuous reminder for all miners specifically while turning crosscuts.

A few important points to remember when implementing this best practice are as follows:

- Responsibility for installing the indicators should be well understood and communicated to all miners.
- The meaning of the reflective indicators should be made clear to all miners. Ideally, the indicators should be unique to this application. In effect, the same design or color of indicator should not be used for other purposes (e.g. to mark spads, test holes, hazardous ground, etc.).
- It is recommended to hang more than two reflective indicators. Some mines even use different colors to further identify different positions on the perimeter of the no work zone.