

# Safety Alert



Explosives

Explosives Inspectorate

Safety Alert No. 49 | 27 October 2011

## Not-so-water-resistant boosters

### What happened?

Some poor quality imported boosters, loaded into wet holes for 7 days or more, partially disintegrated, despite technical data sheets advising that the boosters were water resistant.

The explosive compositions used in these boosters are not necessarily water soluble and they have cardboard casings. This can lead to misfires.

### Recommendations

1. Explosive products with suspect safety or quality must be set aside and the supplier contacted.
2. Importers and sellers must ensure that receipt inspection under a quality system (such as ISO 9000) is carried out on boosters and other explosives before sending them to users.
3. All importers and sellers should review their safety management systems to address quality system issues including: control of customer-supplied product; inspection and control of non-conforming product; corrective and preventive action; and change management.
4. All importers, sellers and users should conduct self-audits to check that safety management systems are followed and records are kept.



*Examples of boosters that have been loaded into wet holes showing the impact of water.*

Authorised by **Geoff Downs** | Chief Inspector of Explosives

For more information, call **1300 739 868**

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