



# **EU Salt Safety Award 2021 COMPASS MINERALS**

Using Technology to Combat COVID

# Introduction



Hello, my name is Ian Hanley, I am the Safety Officer at Compass Minerals UK salt mine.

I have been in post for nearly 7 years, and have a long history of risk mitigation and loss prevention.

My short presentation today focuses upon how we at the mine managed through the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020, and some of the technological aides that were employed.



# Managing the risk using Technology

- At the onset of the pandemic, Compass Minerals UK strategic managers dictated that we were an essential strategic asset and a full site closure was out of the question.
- A small team of volunteers remained in work whilst the majority were placed on furlough, or worked from a safe home location. Home working arrangements were risk assessed and electronic equipment provided to meet individual needs.
- Social media developments greatly assisted in maintaining an effective working arrangement, for these colleagues.
- Business travel effectively ceased, Zoom and Teams online meetings quickly became the norm.
- My focus was to ensure that those attending work could do so safely, to ensure the delivery of our vital work streams and services in our Operations.



## Prevention and Detection

- Hand held Infrared cameras were deployed, to assess employees temperatures, to be replaced with wall mounted Infra red thermometers. These in turn were replaced with calibrated automatic temperature scanners with integrated thermal imaging cameras to provide automatic detection at the point of entry.
- This scanner uses a black body to compare infra red images of an individual's temples and cheeks to record the temperature. Each scan taking 0.2 of a second. Detected anomalies would activate a local alarm and record a digital image on a hard drive. The alarm also alerted two monitoring centres who could communicate over a two-way intercom with the scanned area. Instructions were posted for actions in the event of an alarm. As technology improved and the pandemic better understood we upgraded our capabilities

Hand held temperature Scanners used early in the pandemic



# Prevention and Detection



Automatic thermal imaging equipment installed at entrance point.

Images taken.



## Prevention and Detection

- Hands free automatic sanitiser dispensers were widely deployed on the surface and underground.
- Vehicles were provided with internal screens where more than one person was using them with a cleaning regime introduced during pre-use checks.



Internal screening installed in vehicles used by more than 1 person to prevent internal contamination



## Prevention and Detection

- The vehicle mechanics were equipped with an atomiser gun with U/V lights to sanitise vehicles, prior to them being repaired and returned to use.
- Welfare facilities underground were fitted with increased electronic ventilation and social distancing was enforced within them.
- Office spaces were subject to a deep clean regime with a mist atomiser used to maintain surface sanitisation and area cleaning. This was very useful in maintaining the cleanliness of high use areas. All personnel complied with Government guidelines to self-isolate on potential infection, with an internal track and trace investigation by the Health and Safety team.
- The availability of lateral flow rapid testing, of late, has been a useful tool especially for those at the point of customer contact.
- These tests are used routinely when tasks prevent social distancing.
- We will continue to utilise new technologies as they come on line to prevent Covid-19 transmission.



# Prevention and Detection



Atomiser guns used in Offices and vehicles to disinfect areas. Automatic soap and sanitiser dispensers installed throughout site to minimise surface contact





## Conclusion

- Compass Minerals very quickly adopted a policy of using technology to help prevent COVID -19 Infection.
- As the spread of the virus became more understood we rapidly developed our Policies and procedures to keep our employees safe
- We have kept abreast of new technology and where this has been proved to be successful in our environment we have tested it and made it available at our Mine.
- Consultation, training and communication with employees has enabled us to move rapidly and give our team the confidence that their safety remains our key value not just our priority during this difficult time.
- Priorities change, values don't

