

**Table 12.7.: Safe Work Practices**

ITEMS	REQUIREMENTS
<b>7. UNDER GROUND OPERATIONS</b>	<b><u>5. EMERGENCY DRILLS</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Underground operations shall conduct disaster and evacuation drills for each shift at least once at the start of underground operations and every 6 months, or more frequently as appropriate.</li> <li>ii. A record of such drills shall be maintained.</li> </ul>
	<b><u>6. SAFETY, FIRE DETECTION AND PROTECTION SYSTEMS</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Fire protection extinguishing equipment applicable to the hazard shall be provided at the head, tail, drive, and take-up pulley areas of belt conveyors and at intervals along belt conveyor lines that shall not exceed 91 m.</li> <li>ii. Belt conveyors installed in underground locations, other than belts that carry the load of the belt on a low-friction metal deck without rollers, shall meet the following minimum requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Conveyor belting shall be approved.</li> <li>b. Entrances in which belt conveyors are installed shall be kept free of accumulations such as muck, debris, and combustibles.</li> <li>c. All belt conveyors shall be equipped with an approved slippage switch system designed to shut down the belt when sliding friction develops between the drive pulley(s) and the belt.</li> <li>d. The slippage switch system shall be tested weekly.</li> <li>e. On each new installation, the slippage switch system shall be tested before the conveyor is used.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. All conveyor belt systems shall be equipped with approved interlock systems that shut down belt conveyors when any conveyor in the system stops or reduces its normal speed or upon activation of any required fire protection system.</li> <li>iv. Fixed combustible materials such as posts, cribbing, and roof supports shall be either guarded from contact by the belt using metal or located at a distance of at least ½ the width of the belt from any idler or pulley. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. An alternate method for minimizing potential frictional ignition is the use of alignment switches at intervals sufficient to prevent the belt from contacting such materials.</li> <li>b. Guarding for machinery in the drive area and at other points along the belt shall be of noncombustible material.</li> </ul> </li> <li>v. New installations of belt conveyors shall utilize a structure that does not provide a deck between the upper and lower strands of the belt.</li> <li>vi. Suitable fire extinguishers shall be installed so that travel distance from any one point in a tunnel does not exceed 91 m (300 ft.) on a horizontal plane.</li> <li>vii. Audible and visible alarm and emergency lighting for safe evacuation shall be required.</li> <li>viii. Two means of communications with the surface shall be available at all times from all areas of the underground facility.</li> <li>ix. All communications systems shall be tested weekly.</li> </ul>