

STATEMENT

10 December 2015

New continuing professional development (CPD) requirements for holders of extractives' certificates of competence (CoC) have been gazetted and will come into force on 1 January 2016.

The Health and Safety in Employment (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations 2013 now require all CoC holders who wish to renew their CoCs to undertake CPD.

WorkSafe New Zealand prescribed the requirements after consultation with the New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners. The requirements are also administered by WorkSafe.

This is a first for the extractives industry, here and internationally. A great deal of research, work and consultation went into setting the requirements. Feedback was sought from the industry before the requirements were agreed.

The CPD requirements are unique as they focus on safety critical roles rather than on a profession and cover a broad range of very different roles.

WorkSafe's Chief Inspector Extractives, Tony Forster says that this is an exciting step in improving and supporting safety and the safety culture in our extractive's industry. Updating technical and operational skills and knowledge and putting these into practice with professional judgement is the key to safer work practices. This helps the CoC holder to look continuously at developing a safety culture, improved protection and quality of life," he says.

"Sustaining a wide range of quality learning activities for those who have statutory responsibility for safety critical roles in the extractives industry, who can then more confidently challenge and inform poor workplace performance is essential if we are to meet this country's ambitious health and safety improvement goals."

CPD guidelines to accompany the Gazette notice have also been released. The guidelines provide more information about CPD and focus on what is required.

"The intention is to hold CPD workshops across the country next year to give CoC holders the opportunity to learn more about CPD and how they will be administered," Mr Forster says.

For more information

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