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THE NATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COUNCIL FOR THE NEW ZEALAND MINERALS INDUSTRY

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## November 2014

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# Diesel Particulates Submission

Last month WorkSafe asked for submissions on diesel particulate matter (DPM) which contains known carcinogens. We have been granted an extension to the submission date which is now 19 December so if anyone wishes to make a

submission please forward this to MinEx by 12 Dec. MinEx intends to make a submission. The WorkSafe material can be found on their [website](#).

Clearly DPM is an issue that must be addressed in underground operations.

While diesel particulates should not be a problem in surface mining or quarry operations, confined space situations like workshops, deep trenches and the like could be areas that might be a problem if diesel equipment is operated without adequate ventilation. At the very least mine and quarry operators may need to carry out monitoring in workshops where diesel equipment might be operated for testing purposes before and after maintenance.

Once the workplace exposure standard has been set, the implication is that operations will need to address diesel particulates in their health and safety system if they don't already do this. In order to be able to confidently state that you do not have a problem or to develop controls if you do, you will need to monitor for DPM.

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## Small Mine Templates

We have decided to change our approach to the H&S system templates we have been working on. These were being developed around the NSW Safety Management Kit for small mines and quarries. The further we got into the detail the clearer it became that the model was not really suited to the NZ situation. When the kit was developed in NSW the industry had some 8 years of risk management experience and the kit was developed to be a do-it-yourself template. Here in NZ the target audience for the templates has had little risk management exposure and we feel that a staged approach would be of

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## Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners (BoE) issued their proposals for the Certificates of Competencies (CoCs) with submissions closing 17 November. Thanks to those who forwarded submissions to MinEx. Our industry submission can be found [here](#).

The main points in our submission were:

- The requirement for all 1<sup>st</sup> class and A-grade managers to complete 23457 (Establish the risk management system at an extractive site) should be amended to apply to SSEs only with all other managers completing 26856 (Carry out the

greater value.

Over the next month we will rethink how we will structure the template with a view to taking a staged improvement approach. The outcome will be the development of a basic template that meets the requirements of the regulations. This template will include an improvement plan that will set targets for further development of the H&S system so that over time – that might be 2 years, or more in some circumstances - it meets the requirements of the Australian and New Zealand standards relating to management and H&S systems.

The target users of the template will be small to medium quarries.

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# Industry Codes & Guidance Material

## Surface mines, quarries and alluvial miner guidance

As we reported last month the MinEx submission went to WorkSafe 28 October and we expect this guidance

risk management process at an extractive site) as this then matches the CoC requirements against the regulations;

- Only the SSE should complete 23548 (Establish and maintain the health and safety management system at an extractive site) for the same reason above;
- Requiring A and B-grade tunnel managers to complete the gas testing unit rather than just the B-grade CoC holders; and,
- Extending CIMs training to the SSE , Mechanical Superintendent and Electrical Superintendent.

We also submitted on issues around the five new competencies required to be complete during 2015 and the possible difficulties faced by some B-grade CoC holders who gained their CoCs before the unit standard system came into effect. We also submitted that the BoE should activate the CoC - *Manager of a Designated Quarry* and set some competencies for this CoC as a way of better matching the CoC requirements to small and often intermittently operated alluvial quarries.

**The BoE is expected to Gazette the CoC requirements before Christmas this year and we will get this to you as soon as we receive it.**

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document to be completed sometime in the New Year.

## Codes

Review meetings were held on the Ground Control and Spontaneous Combustion codes in mid-November. These and the remaining codes (Inundation and Inrush, Surveying, Air Quality, and Worker Health) are expected to be completed for review in March of 2015.

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## Extractive Qualifications Review

The Governance Group met on 26 November to agree on the final format of the qualifications and develop a plan for industry consultation. We expect to finalise the qualification details within a week and complete industry consultation before Christmas this year. Consultation will be via an electronic survey distributed by MinEx, AQA, IOQ, AusIMM, Minerals West Coast and Straterra

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## Coc Holders Issues

The November Ecan *GravelTake* newsletter flagged the likelihood of regional councils and other landowners checking CoC holder qualifications. The full newsletter can be found [here](#).

We have also heard of instances where WorkSafe general inspectors have questioned contractors on who the CoC holder was in operations that previously were not considered quarries such as civil excavation work. We believe that the definition of a *Quarry* in the Act is too broad and submitted on this last year. If you know of any such instances then please contact us so that we can start to build a case for resolving the issues around the very broad definition of a *Quarry*.

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## WorkSafe NZ – Health and Safety legislation

The Health and Safety Act 1992 defines a quarrying operation as

# Safety Alerts

## Safety Alerts from November 2014

[NSW - Fatal head injuries in kibble incident \(28/11/24\)](#)

[NSW - Mine worker injured in fall from grader \(28/11/14\)](#)

[HSE - Recycling worker loses arm \(21/11/14\)](#)

[HSE - Workers injured on unguarded machine \(21/11/14\)](#)

[QLD Safety Alert 311 - Serious accident at longwall maingate AFC drive \(21/11/14\)](#)

[SafeQuarry - Electrical cabinet delivery incident \(21/11/14\)](#)

[WA Safety Alert 209 - Potential signal tube detonator explosion \(21/11/14\)](#)

[WA Safety Alert 208 - Bystander struck by component ejected from accumulator \(21/11/14\)](#)

[Freeport - Fatal Event Advisory \(14/11/14\)](#)

[NSW Safety Alert - Fatality track mounted excavator tip over \(14/11/14\)](#)

[QLD Safety Alert 310 - missing exploration worker \(7/11/14\)](#)

All 2014 safety alerts can be found on

‘...an activity carried out above ground for the purpose of extracting any material, other than coal or any mineral, from the earth...’

River-based gravel extraction falls within this definition.

The Health and Safety in Employment (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations 2013 are a supplementary document to the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. Part 1 of the regulations defines ‘safety critical roles and competency requirements’.

The Health and Safety at Work Act is scheduled to come into force in early 2015. It is anticipated that WorkSafe NZ may place some emphasis on checking for qualifications as well as ensuring a safe worksite.

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## Safety Statistics

The industry safety statistics for the September Quarter are still being collected with some companies not submitting data yet. We are reviewing the email contacts we have for

the [MinEx Website](#).

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collection of this data to see if we can improve our collection rate. While there are issues with the system it is the only system producing useful comparative statistics and we need to keep it operating for at least the next 18 months. Within this period WorkSafe should have developed a system to collect the Schedule 10 data that must be submitted by all mining operations (quarries and alluvial mines excluded) quarterly.

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