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New CoC standards a win for industry - MinEx

Bernie Napp - Wed, 22 Nov 2017

The new direction for Certificate of Competency unit standards shows the New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners has listened to industry concerns, MinEx says.

MinEx CEO Wayne Scott commented today on the BoE's newsletter advising it will soon make recommendations on its review of CoC requirements to the WorkSafe Board. The new unit standards will likely be gazetted in early 2018.



"In the short term we want the CoCs to reflect the safety-critical roles," Scott said. "They have emphasised that. That is an acknowledgement."

A further benefit is that the new CoC requirements could go two-thirds of the way towards gaining, for example, a level 4 Certificate for a quarry supervisor or manager of a small quarry, he said.

The industry is also hopeful the CoC unit standards will align with those for the New Zealand Qualifications Authority-approved Certificates and Diplomas, as an incentive for mining and quarrying trainees to complete qualifications, instead of dropping out of courses part way through.

BoE to work with industry to raise skill levels

The BoE said it "would like industry to develop a workforce focused not only on current issues but also on future needs". It is keen for people in the industry to gain qualifications.

"Rather than being driven by minimum requirements which mirror CoC requirements, the focus would be on career progression and the overall skills required at different levels."

The BoE review of unit standards for CoCs was conducted earlier this year, in consultation with the mining and quarrying industries.

In its submission MinEx argued, as a first step, for the CoC unit standards to meet mine and quarry managers' needs for their health and safety responsibilities.

In response to MinEx's and like-minded submissions, the BoE said that the CoC and qualifications alignment proposal is best addressed via a review of the Health and Safety at Work (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations 2016.

"We will incorporate this feedback when preparing [the BoE's] Regulations review submission to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment early next year."

BoE not responsible for industry training

In response to further submission points, the BoE said: "It is important to understand the Mining Board of Examiners is not responsible for national qualifications or career and workforce development."

"For example, lack of uptake to study for formal qualifications is an issue for industry to address."

"It is important that everyone is clear about who is responsible for what."

The BoE said its statutory role under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 relates specifically to health and safety.

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