

WorkSafe settles on site-specific CoC

Eamon Rood - Mon, 28 May 2018

WorkSafe has changed the requirements for a site-specific Certificate of Competence (CoC) for quarries, among other changes to training requirements for the extractives sector.

The [site-specific](#) CoC will be available to operations where no more than four workers, including the CoC applicant, typically work at one time.

Base excavations must not go deeper than 5 metres and explosives cannot be used at these quarries. Processing is limited to a weekly average of 1,000 tonnes.

Other restrictions include no voids or underground workings, or stockpiles more than 5-metres tall. The quarry must operate for at least 24 months, though this is not required to be continuous.

WorkSafe has approved the requirements in a New Zealand Gazette notice. They will come into force when this is published, expected to happen at the end of June.

It says more detailed information will be available over the next weeks, including where to access the site-specific application form.

The site-specific requirements caters to the needs of small, low risk quarries.

WorkSafe and the New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners changed the requirements in response to industry concerns the original criteria were too restrictive.

WorkSafe consulted with the Aggregate & Quarry Association, the Institute of Quarrying New Zealand, and the health and safety council MinEx in developing the new criteria.

Other changes

The other CoC changes define the workings of the relevant type of mine, quarry or tunnel, and specifies the unit standard requirements for a first aid certificate.

WorkSafe has postponed broader changes until the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment has completed its implementation review of the Health and Safety at Work (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations.

MBIE's implementation review is looking at how the current regulations are working in practice. It is expected to finish at the end of this year.

