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## Recent comments

**MinEx says no silicosis risk for residents (2)**

Thanks Murray. The press release has gone too general media so hopefully some will pick it up.

Wayne Scott

**MinEx says no silicosis risk for residents (2)**

This is a great article, but nothing that we didn't already know. Pleased that Wayne has met with Dr Humphrey as it is...

Murray Francis

**Plan needed for aggregate supply to Christchurch (1)**

Rail it over from Westport, plenty in the Buller river, right next railway. Good for flood protection as well, two...

Neal Clementson

**Call to save lives from RCS exposure - MinEx (1)**

It is interesting that operators focus on health checks rather than exposure monitoring. By the time health monitoring...

Kerry Cheung

**Young accuses PM of mining policy misinformation (1)**

Jonathan Young has hit the nail on the head. The

## Industry urges stronger CoC requirements

Eamon Rood - Mon, 29 Jan 2018

There is substantial cross-sector support for making certificates of competence New Zealand Qualifications Authority diplomas and degrees, submissions received by WorkSafe show.

Of the 78 submissions received on proposed changes to the CoC system, 20 endorse MinEx's submission in its entirety, while some other submitters support particular parts of it.

The thrust of MinEx's submission is that current requirements do not address the skills and experience required for safety-critical roles, as defined in Part 2 of the 2016 mining and quarrying regulations.

"For example, the current requirements for a quarry manager do not include fundamental competencies concerning development, implementation and maintenance of: risk management processes; health and safety management systems; and emergency management plans," MinEx says.

It adds that some required unit standards are irrelevant, pointing out as an example that quarry manager CoCs require unit standards on underground workings.

MinEx wants CoCs for these roles to be NZQA diplomas and qualifications, replacing what it calls the "ad hoc" collection of unit standards produced by industry training bodies like MITO.

**Comments**

Prominent figures from the mining, quarrying, and construction sectors are among those who endorsed the MinEx submission.

They included Brian Roche, a quarry manager for Ravensdown and chair of the Aggregate and Quarry Association; and Civil Contractors New Zealand president Peter Silcock.

Others include Fulton Hogan quarry manager Mark Cameron, Kai Point Coal CEO Chris O'Leary, and SimCox Construction board chair Russell Hopkins.

Ten of the submissions were made confidentially, and comments from these tended to be quite critical of the existing system. One such submission describes management of the existing CoC process as "average at best" and says trainers are inadequately prepared.

Stuart Rabone from Broken Hills Gold said that oral exams should be broad-minded and taken into account existing experience and qualifications and focus less on recalling specifics of the regulations.

Mike Higgins from J Swap Contractors commented that the B-grade quarry manager CoC is too close to the requirements for the A-grade.

Higgins, and Heaphy Mining's Trish Costelloe were among submitters who think unit standards do not prepare applicants for the range of questions they will be asked during exams.

Higgins also suggested that oral exams should take place on site, and an inspector be included among the panel of examiners. That view was shared by others, including Peter O'Sullivan of Tai Poutini Polytechnic.

Glens Perkins and Andrew Birchfield, representing Minerals West Coast and the Commercial Gold Miners Association in a joint-submission, said that alluvial gold mining skills are not adequately dealt with under the existing system.

This view is also incorporated into the MinEx submission, which calls for a CoC for alluvial miners.

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### Autonomous vehicles inevitable in mines and quarries

[Cameron Massey](#)

Leading quarry and mining equipment dealers believe it is only a matter of time until autonomous vehicles are operating widely in the industry.



Mimico general manager Chris Gray says at this stage the technology may be better suited to the civil construction sector, but he says the technology could be transferred to the mining industry soon.

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### Plan needed for aggregate supply to Christchurch

[Bernie Napp](#)

The Harewood Gravel High Court appeal highlights growing pressure on aggregate supply to Greater Christchurch.



If the High Court agrees with the Environment Court on this appeal by the Road Metals-Isaac Construction joint venture, the availability of resource would reduce, even in quarry zones.

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