

Media Release

30 November 2015

EXTENSION OF DATE FOR RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCE

People in safety-critical roles in mining, tunnelling and quarrying operations will now have longer to meet the new competency requirements after an amendment was made this week to the Health and Safety in Employment (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations 2013.

Before the amendment, existing certificates of competence would have expired on 31 December 2015, but the date has now been extended until 31 December 2016. Also, without the amendment, people in new roles established by the 2013 regulations would have needed new competencies by 1 January 2016. They will now have until 1 January 2017.

Feedback from the industry indicated that the original timetable for the new competencies was too tight according to High Hazards Unit Chief Inspector Extractives Tony Forster.

“WorkSafe has had pretty consistent feedback that this date was putting too much pressure on the industry,” he said.

“Our concerns were heard and the Government agreed to the extensions. We are confident that a one year extension will significantly increase the level of industry action.”

“This is the right outcome to enable all safety-critical role-holders to complete the necessary training and evaluation, and should set up the industry for a safe and successful future,” Mr Forster said

For further information on how the different groups will transition to the new competencies, please go to the WorkSafe website or contact the Board of Examiners.

For more information

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/guidance-by-industry/extractives/board-of-examiners/notices>

BoE Secretariat
WorkSafe New Zealand
PO Box 165
WELLINGTON
BoE_Secretariat@worksafe.govt.nz
Phone: 04 901 4980