

WorkSafe Services

PO Box 160
Saint John NB E2L 3X9
Phone 506 632-2200
Toll free (Claims) 1 800 222-9775
N.E. Regional Office 1 800 561-2524
Web www.whscc.nb.ca

Services de travail sécuritaire

Case postale 160
Saint John NB E2L 3X9
Téléphone 506 632-2200
Sans frais (Réclamations) 1 800 222-9775
Bureau de la Région du N.-E. 1 800 561-2524
Web www.whscc.nb.ca



July 14, 2006

"The Employer"

This is in reply to the employer's fax dated July 13, 2006 requesting a deviation from Section 147 (1) and 148 (1) of the General Regulation 91-191 to allow the employer to perform blasting while the employer does not possess a blasting certificate from the Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Branch to carry out and supervise perforating blasting operations in the Province of New Brunswick.

In rendering the Chief Compliance Officer's decision, the Chief Compliance Officer has considered the following information:

1. The Province of New Brunswick does not provide training and certification in the field of Perforated Blasting, therefore the supervision and operation of blasting operations involving perforating oil wells is outside the field of expertise of a New Brunswick certified blaster and obtaining such certification would not be of substantial benefit to the employer;
2. The employer has provided a copy of the employer's Nova Scotia Blaster's Certificate Class: *Oil / Gas well perforation* bearing with an expiry date of March 31, 2008.
3. The description of Schlumberger's Explosives/Perforating Certification Examination, for which an overall 81% is required to pass, and Schlumberger's Perforating Course Outline which includes Explosives Classification and Handling, Perforating Gun technique, Safety, Operations, Selectivity, Regulatory Requirements and Charge Performance tests;
4. A candidate must have obtained the Petroleum Industry Training Service (PITS) Certification or Schlumberger's Explosives/Perforating Certification in order for the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners for Certification of Blasters to issue an *Oil / Gas well perforation* class certificate which allows the holders to handle, prepare, load and fire oil/gas well explosives for the purpose of oil and gas well blasting.

As a result of the above information, a deviation from Sections 147 (1) and 148 (1) is granted to allow the employer to carry out and supervise perforating blasting operations until such time as the employer's Oil/gas well perforation Blasting Certificate expires or is renewed.

By copy of this letter, the Chief Compliance Officer has advised WHSCC staff of the decision.

Yours truly,

Chief Compliance Officer

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