

WorkSafe Services

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Services de travail sécuritaire

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October 12, 2005

"The Employer"

This is in reply to the employer's fax dated October 7, 2005 requesting a deviation from Section 147 (1) and 148 (1) of the General Regulation 91-191 to allow three blasters from the employer's firm who do not possess blasting certificates from the Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Branch to carry out and supervise perforating blasting operations in the Province of New Brunswick.

Three employees are affected.

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

1. Since the Province of New Brunswick does not provide training and certification in the field of Perforated Blasting, the supervising and operation of blasting operations involving perforating oil wells is outside the scope of a New Brunswick certified blasters field of expertise and therefore obtaining such certification would not be of substantial benefit to the blasters;
2. The affected blasters have current certification (*Oilwell Blasting Permit/ Certificate*) from the Petroleum Industry Training Service (PITS).
3. The Petroleum Industry Training Service, which recently combined their operations with the Canadian Petroleum Safety Council (CPSC) to become *Enform*, is designated by the Province of Alberta (through the Alberta Human Resources and Employment Department) as a *Certifying Partner* responsible for assessing the quality of health and safety programs in Alberta, including issuing *Certificates of Recognition* to employers.
4. The Permit/Certificate (which certifies holders to handle, prepare, load and fire oilwell explosives for the purpose of oil and gas well blasting) is accepted (in addition to Alberta Human Resources and Employment) by the following provincial and territorial jurisdictions:
 - a. Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia
 - b. Manitoba Labour and Immigration
 - c. Northwest Territories Safety and Health Services and
 - d. Yukon Workers' Compensation, Health and Safety Board
5. The employer has provided copies of the permits/certificates for those affected and a review of the expiry dates indicate that all have current status to perform blasting operations. Two permits expire 2008-11-26 and one permit expires 2010-07-1.

As a result of the above information, a deviation from Sections 147 (1) and 148 (1) is granted to allow the three employees to carry out and supervise perforating blasting operations until such time as the Oilwell Blasting Permit/Certificate expires or they are 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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