

WorkSafe Services

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Services de travail sécuritaire

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March 31, 2008

"The Employer"

This is in reply to the employer's fax dated March 20, 2008 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 the Chief Compliance Officer with a current Oil/Well Blasting Permit/Certificate which allows the employer to handle, prepare, load and fire oilwell explosives for the purpose of oil and gas well blasting within the Province of Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba as well as the Northwest Territories and Yukon with an expiry date of June 3, 2012.
3. A copy of a Certificate confirming that the employer has satisfactorily completed Oilwell Perforators Safety Training Program.
4. 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; and
5. A copy of Schlumberger Field Safety Procedures.

As the deviation was required for the duration of Easter weekend, based on the information provided, a verbal deviation was granted from Sections 147 (1) and 148 (1) to allow the employer to carry out and supervise perforating blasting operations during the weekend.

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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