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"The Employer"

This is in reply to the employer's fax dated October 19, 2010 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 a 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;
 - a. The employer has provided the Chief Compliance Officer with a current Enform Oil/Well Blasting Permit/Certificate which allows the blaster 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 for a number of employees.
2. 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
3. A copy of Schlumberger Field Safety Procedures.

As the deviation was required beginning October 25, 2010 and based on the information provided, on October 29, 2010 a verbal deviation was granted from Sections 147 (1) and 148 (1) to allow the employer to carry out and supervise perforating blasting operations.

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

Yours truly,

Chief Compliance Officer

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