



Extracting the best in 2018

Hi, we are starting 2018 in something of a dust storm.

Resident concerns in Canterbury have gained media attention, and while some people are talking up Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) risks, authorities are trying to calm any fears about RCS exposure.

While RCS exposure is not an issue for our neighbours, nuisance dust can be and as an industry we must engage with our neighbours and ensure that we are doing everything we can to minimise the impacts of our mining or quarrying on our neighbours and adjoining communities. MinEX with AQA has made [this media statement](#) on these issues and we expect to be at the forefront of ongoing industry responses.



While I acknowledge that most mines and many quarries have good dust management in place, some sites need to continue to lift their game because any dust that emerges from a mine or quarry – as from any farming or earthmoving operation – is annoying to close neighbours.

Ensure that you water your roads, clean or wash the tyres and under-bellies of trucks leaving the quarry, and apply water where necessary to plant and stockpiles or any other area where dust is generated. The reputation of our industry depends on all of you reducing airborne dust.

In relation to exposure of RCS to our workers, we have just released a flyer to assist sites in identifying the hazards presented by RCS, assessing exposure to workers and controlling this exposure. [Click here to find it on our website.](#)

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MinEx takes on unregulated quarries

For the third summer in a row, MinEx (in conjunction with the AQA) has been highlighting the risks posed by small, unregulated quarries – not just to their own workers but to the reputation of the wider extractive industry.

[Here's the media release.](#)



In essence, the quarry industry and MinEx want a tougher approach taken this year to small quarries that continue to flout health and safety regulations.

Most of the industry has got up to speed with the new and tougher requirements that came into force in the wake of the Pike River disaster which exposed light regulation across the whole extractives sector.

However, AQA membership only covers a couple of hundred quarry sites around the country; there are around 1,100 in total, many of them on remote rural properties.

Some are still refusing to implement new requirements for Certificates of Competence (CoC) and these present the highest level of risks to operator and worker safety.

I have been visiting small sites since taking on the job six months ago and while some welcome my advice, others are trying to stay below the radar.

They are foolish to believe they can avoid enforcement action by WorkSafe. My message to unregistered quarries is to contact me and let me help get sites up to speed, as the alternative may be getting shut down.

The longer small quarries operate without health and safety requirements in place, the more risk they create of serious injuries or fatalities. We saw four deaths in quarries in 2015 - three in small quarries without appropriate requirements in place - and we don't want another year like that.

I can be contacted at wayne@minex.co.nz or 021 944 366.

Industry Training Advisory Group



Further to the [submission we made to WorkSafe on proposed changes to CoCs](#), MinEx is on a mission to align Certificates of Competence with New Zealand Qualifications Authority approved certificates and diplomas.

At its first meeting recently at Road Metals' quarry in Rolleston, the new Extractives Industry Training Advisory Group (EITAG) agreed to its terms of reference, including a move for industry to a full NZQA qualifications-based CoC system.

As EITAG chair I have put together a group of extractives Industry people with strong training backgrounds, both in New Zealand and overseas, including Australia and the UK. Other EITAG members are: Amanda Burke (quarries, Road Metals); Fiona Bartier (coal, Bathurst Resources); Geoff Guthrie (metalliferous, OceanaGold); Iain Simmons (tunnellers, McConnell Dowell); and Michael Alsford (the industry training organisation, MITO).

The group will also be a conduit between the extractives sector, government and training providers on all issues related to training and certificates of competence.

Worker health – not injuries - are actually most important

While MinEx makes no apology for the effort that goes into helping the extractives sector avoid serious harm injury risks, there is in fact a much more important issue to be managed.

Here's the stark statistic: Workers are 10 times more likely to die from workplace-associated illness than through accidents. As a nation, we have to address that awful reality.

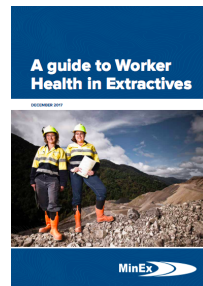
So, while the timing was not great but just prior to Christmas, MinEx managed to get up a very important document - [A guide to Worker Health in Extractives](#)

This MinEx guide is a step forward, at least for the extractives sector. You will find a host of useful advice and guidance on the risks posed by airborne contaminants, noise, temperature, fatigue and a range of other potential hazards.

But this is only a starting point. You need to have appropriate plans and controls in place to manage the risks posed to worker health. It is not an exaggeration to say that lives may depend on this.

If after you've read a relevant section in this guide to Worker Health in Extractives and you are still unsure about what you should be doing, MinEx will make every effort to respond to your enquiry.

Contact Wayne Scott at wayne@minex.co.nz or 021 944 366.



Two years fees free industry training

There may be no better time for our industry to employ trainees - with two years fees free on offer.

There are some requirements for 2018 enrolments;

- You must be enrolling in a New Zealand Apprenticeship or other programme of at least 120 credits that starts in 2018, is funded by the Tertiary Education Commission, recognised by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, and is at New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF) level 3 or above; and
- be entitled to work in New Zealand; and
- not be currently enrolled in a school at the start date of the programme; and either
 - have been enrolled in a school at any time during 2017 or 2018; or
 - not have previously undertaken more than 60 credits at level 3 or above on the NZQF, including tertiary education at an equivalent level undertaken in any other country, but excluding any tertiary education undertaken while enrolled in a secondary school.



This [link to the MinEx website](#) explains eligibility.

Please note: The fees free cannot be used for Certificate of Competence courses. It can however be used for all the New Zealand Certificates and Diplomas in Mining and Quarrying.

Meeting with the Ministers

MinEx prepared a briefing document summarising extractives industry issues for the new Government, all other MPs and Government officials. We also sought a meeting with the new Ministers. [Read the briefing on our website.](#)

We are pleased to report that we've already had a productive meeting with Andrew Little, Minister in charge of Pike River Re-entry, and in mid-February we are scheduled to see the new Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety Iain Lees-Galloway.

We will report more fully on our Ministerial meetings in our next MinEx newsletter.



New BoE appointees

New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners

MinEx would like to acknowledge the contribution the six departing members have made to the Board of Examiners and to the extractives industry in general:

Stephen Bell, Michelle Crompton, Steve Ellis, Craig Smith, John St George and Ray Urquhart.

A warm congratulations and welcome to the new Board of Examiners: Mark Pizey, Stephen Bell, Rory Bishop, Michelle Crompton, Garth Elliot, Timothy Kenndy, Gordon Laing, Bernie O'Leary, marianne Rogers and Dave Stewart.

Changes last month to managing hazardous substances

One contributor to workplace illnesses are hazardous substances. As from December 1, there regulators covering hazardous substances regulations changed.

If you want to know what are the roles of WorkSafe and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – [look here](#).



Credit where it's due

You have seen some coverage about how the [complete absence of fatalities in the rebuild of Christchurch](#) is being hailed as safety achievement. And it is a remarkable feat, given the scale of what has transpired since the 2010/11 earthquakes.

**zero
Fatalities**

Multiple reports have concluded the rebuild safety programme has likely prevented at least one death and dozens of workplace injuries in Canterbury. The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment [MBIE] set up the Canterbury Rebuild Health & Safety Programme as a response to the dramatic increase in construction work.

Little credit, however, seems to have been given to those who drove the establishment of the rebuild safety programme. It was in fact the former EPMU union, now E Tū, who rightly identified the scale of risks unless something was established. That deserves to be recognised.

Writing for health and safety



WorkSafe has recently released what we consider to be an excellent guide to helping you write clear and concise health and safety documents. [Check it out here](#).

And remember, MinEx has developed a Quarry health and safety management template for quarry operations to help you get started on your documentation. You'll find it on the [documents and guidelines page of our website](#), or if you would like a word version of the templates, just contact us.

We are also currently working on a health and safety management template for a one man (or woman!) operation.

Minerals Forum programme released



With over 150 attendees and growing, the forum is attracting high-level attendance from mining companies, government regulators and agencies, the investment community and service companies.

The programme features leading local and international speakers, presenting on topics including:

- Mineral investment opportunities
- Exclusive industry announcements
- Regulatory roadmap guidance and understanding the new government coalition
- Environmental compliance and showcasing of best practice
- Leadership and direction for the mining sector in New Zealand.

Four streams are included in the main conference programme: Mine Managers' Forum; Coal Users' Forum; Investment Opportunities; Scale Aggregates and Industrial Minerals. They will provide a range of training opportunities to upskill and gain required industry accreditations and CPD hours.

[View the full programme details](#)

The conference has a substantial trade exhibition. Social functions will include the Welcome Function on Monday 28 May, sponsored by Komatsu, and the Minerals Sector Awards gala dinner on Tuesday 29 May, sponsored by Gough Cat.

View the Q3 2017 NZ Safety stats
[Click here](#)

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