



Electrical Safety Services to the Mining Industry

Information for Occupational Safety and Health Inspectors

Review of Energy Safety Services

On 1 December, following a review of the Energy Inspection Group of the Ministry of Commerce, most of the Energy Safety functions not related to worker licensing, were transferred to the newly created Energy Safety Service (ESS) aligned with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, an operating division of the Ministry of Commerce. The review resulted in changes to a number of staff responsibilities and a decision to relocate the provision of Mining Inspection services to Wellington.

Provision of Mining Inspection Services

The leadership for the provision of Mining Inspection services and the contact point for the Mining Industry will now become the responsibility of Peter Morfee, Principal Technical Advisor. Peter has a background in the Mining industry where he previously worked as an Electrical Inspector and Electrical Engineer. Bill Lowe and Richard Davenport, two of ESS's Senior Technical Advisors will assist Peter and will provide "on site" inspection services, and any accident investigations that might be needed. For the time being Paul Neems will continue to further familiarise Bill, Peter and Richard on any particular issues he has under action, and carry out some inspection work at the Mines located in the Huntly area.

Transitional arrangements are already in place to ensure a smooth change over. Some of you may have already met Richard or Bill at seminars on the recently introduced Mining Regulations conducted by the Labour Department (OSH).

Richard, Bill and Peter will continue the programme of inspections contained in the ESS's business plan.

Energy Safety Service Contacts

The persons to contact on electrical matters in the Energy Safety Service are:

Peter Morfee, Principal Technical Advisor

DDI 0-4-474 2692 Mobile 021 623 376

Richard Davenport, Senior Technical Advisor

DDI 0-4-474-2857 Mobile 021 623 373

Bill Lowe, Senior Technical Advisor

0-4-472 0030 Mobile 021 623 395
Fax 0-4-460 1365

Free fax 0508 SAFEENERGY (0508 723 336)

Energy Safety Service
Ministry of Consumer Affairs
33 Bowen Street, PO Box 1473 Wellington

Accidents involving Electricity and Gas

The ESS operates a 24-hour accident notification free phone service to report accidents involving Electricity or Gas: 0800 10 44 77

The ESS operates an on call roster system which ensures that calls are responded to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Y2K Preparedness

For the Y2K period (31 December 1999 – 31 March 2000) we will have an alternative phone number 021 363 743 in case the pager system fails. In the very unlikely event that both fail, there will be a further back up on 025 519 729.

Produced by the Energy Safety Service
Ministry of Consumer Affairs
33 Bowen Street
PO Box 1473 Wellington New Zealand
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Electrical Code of Practice (Underground Mining)

An Electrical Code of Practice is being prepared to support the new *Health and Safety in Employment (Mining – Underground) Regulations 1999*. The production of this code will be a key focus for Paul Neems over the next few months as the transition takes place. It is expected that the code will be substantially advanced during the next three months and that it can be completed and implemented by the end of 2000.

ECP 24 revision

A draft revision of the Electrical Code of Practice for the Safety of Electricity in Hazardous Areas (NZECP 24:1999) has been prepared and is now available for public comment. This code is particularly relevant to coal handling plants. Information, including the text of the draft, is available on our Website (see below).

Standards Committee representation

The ESS maintains membership on a wide range of Standards committees in both Australia and New Zealand. For information on the activities of these committees contact Ron Baker at the ESS in Wellington at (04) 4720030. We are also involved in the production of competency Standards for Mining Electrical Personnel.

Website

The ESS operates an extensive website covering electrical safety and related issues and providing links to many overseas and local agencies. The website is located at www.ess.moc.govt.nz. All the Codes, Regulations and newsletters are available on this site at no cost. A copy of the new Health and Safety in Employment (Mining – Underground) Regulations 1999 is being loaded onto the Internet site.