

# INFORMATION SHEET

Code of Practice HSNO COP 5-1  
NUMBER 32  
SEPTEMBER 2009

## Code of Practice for Explosive Approved Handlers

This industry developed Code of Practice is called:

### Approved Handler Certificates Explosives

#### **Codes of Practice: What are they and what is their significance?**

Codes of Practice are able to be approved by the Authority under Sections 78 and 79 of the HSNO Act. In practice they are approved by the ERMA New Zealand Chief Executive under delegated authority.

Codes of Practice are “how to” documents. They tell you how you can meet the requirements of the HSNO regulations and controls, in a way that is legally defensible. However, they are **not** mandatory! If you have other ways of meeting the requirements then you can adopt those instead.

Most Codes will be developed by industry or user groups rather than by ERMA New Zealand.

#### **Where can you get a copy of this Code?**

Code HSNO COP 5-1 was developed by the MinEx National Health & Safety Council. This code can be inspected at the Wellington office of ERMA New Zealand and is available from:

MinEx  
National Health & Safety Council  
P O Box 32019  
Maungaraki,  
Lower Hutt  
New Zealand 5050

Freecall: 0800 4 MINEX (0800 464 396)

## What is this Code about?

This Code applies to persons intending to become approved handlers for:

- Surface shooting
- Underground coal shotfiring
- Underground metalliferous or tunnel firing
- Construction blasting or

The code provides for the requirements to meet the following of the Hazardous Substances (Personnel Qualifications) Regulations 2001, which a person must know and be able to describe, before being certified as an approved handler:

- 5(1)(a) the hazard classifications of those hazardous substances for which he or she is to be an approved handler.
- 5(1)(b) the adverse effects that could be caused by each of those substances.
- 5(1)(d) his or her obligations and liabilities under the Act as an approved handler, including –
  - (i) the purpose and principles of the Act; and
  - (ii) the offence and defence provisions of the Act; and
  - (iii) the penalties and liabilities imposed by the Act; and
  - (iv) the effect of a compliance order.
- 5(1)(h) the precautions required to prevent injury to a person or damage to the environment by any of those substances.
- 5(1)(i) the procedures to adopt in an emergency involving those substances.
- 5(2) The person must also know and be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of the operating equipment (including clothing and equipment) necessary to manage those hazardous substances for which he or she is to be an approved handler.

## What is in the Code?

It is not possible to give a full summary of the Code in this Information Sheet, but the following information will give you a good indication of what is covered in the Code:

### *Competency*

The code specifies the relevant unit standards that competency is required for each particular field of usage.

### *Practical Experience*

This Code specifies minimum requirements in terms of length of experience and the number of shots to be fired.

### *Understanding of the HSNO Act*

The code specifies the relevant unit standards to ensure the applicant understands the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.

## Conclusion

This Information Sheet has been prepared by ERMA New Zealand to help you decide whether this Code would be of relevance to you. It is **not** in itself a Code of Practice.

## Further information or feedback

ERMA New Zealand publishes information sheets on a range of topics to provide background information on current issue or proposals being dealt with by the Authority.

All publications may be viewed and downloaded from our website at [www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/index.asp](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/index.asp) or may be requested by contacting ERMA New Zealand, P O Box 131, Wellington. Ph +64 4 916 2426 Fax +64 4 914 0433 Email [info@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:info@ermanz.govt.nz)