

| Information Item | CANZ expertise to be sought in future guidance development |
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CANZ expertise to be sought in future guidance development

Following comprehensive multi-industry consultation to modernise legislation critical to the crane industry, the process to develop new regulations to replace the current Health and Safety in Employment (Pressure Equipment, Cranes, and Passenger Ropeways) Regulations 1999 is progressing.

WorkSafe's Principal Engineer of Health and Technical Services, Stuart Wright, says all the submissions have been received and are being analysed by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

Mr Wright is WorkSafe's foremost expert on Pressure Equipment, Cranes, and Passenger Ropeways (PECPR) regulations.

MBIE has signalled to all industry stakeholders that, subject to cabinet approvals, implementation is intended for in 2021.

Mr Wright says that after the regulations are passed, WorkSafe will begin work on revising the approved codes and other guidance that supports them.

He expects there to be a big role for CANZ in this work and that WorkSafe looks forward to working alongside the industry to use its expertise and develop workable solutions.

"Given CANZ is an industry leader, and its members' already manage crane safety very well, I'm confident they will be able to smoothly implement any changes required.

"From submissions received in response to the draft documents that went out, it's quite clear that what we've got is working well, we need to bring it into the 21st Century, given that the regulation is 20 years old.

"So, it's an opportunity to set standards for the next 20 years."

Having attended multiple industry focus groups, he says there is widespread positivity from most sectors about the proposed changes.

"We recognise that regulations need to be more dynamic to allow for innovation that has happened over the last 20 years, and that will be taken care of by new regulations and the re-writing of the guidance that we have.

"The Approved Code of Practice for Cranes that supports the PECPR regulations was last revised in 2009, so it is 10 years out of date.

"Much of the technology that is in the market today probably wasn't even dreamt of then when the code of practice was written, and I have knowledge that it doesn't fit some of the quite recent and exciting developments that have come through Europe and other places."

There are calls for change and additions. However, Mr Wright believes the main changes CANZ members submitted for – high risk work licences – won't be actively investigated until the next stage of regulation development.

Stuart Wright
Principal Engineer of Health and Technical Services
Worksafe NZ

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