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IN OTHER NEWS

When bureaucrats turn good into bad.

There is no doubt there have been changes to health and safety in New Zealand over the last decade, but are bureaucrats turning good systems into time consuming, resource wasting administrative processes?

Big business is yet again putting the pressure on small and medium sized businesses to waste time and resources to participate in a Pre-Qualification process for health and safety.

If you don't have a Pre-Qualification, which you have to purchase annually, then you don't get any work.

If you do get a Pre-Qualification then every six months you have an audit and every month you have to submit reports that nothing has happened.

It's no wonder it's getting harder to make money and

Its now the waiting game



New Zealanders have generally had a reputation of having a “can do” attitude, and this has reflected in the way we operate as a country and again, industries within the country.

All parties are claiming they want the country to progress and be economically stable. The

decision made by Winston Peters and New Zealand First will have a huge impact on who is going to prove they are the best to do that.

As an industry we are at the mercy of whoever gets in to run the country.

We know that the Government has done nothing for us over the last nine years and who is to say the next Government, whether it be a National lead coalition or a Labour lead coalition, will be any better.

The Federation has been vocal about what is needed to progress but it has fallen on deaf or disinterested ears.

We are hoping New Zealand First will take into account proper leadership that will help industries to progress, because the Federation doesn't want to waste time winding back the clock. We have always done what we said we would do and we don't want to return to those tactics.

We said we would protest outside the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board office and we did.

We said we would protest in front of the Beehive and we did.

We said we would protest outside Government house when Prince Charles was here and we did.

We said we believed Continuing Professional Development was illegal under the previous Act and it was.

We said we believed the Board had unlawfully taken money from

productivity is down because we are wasting time reporting on things that haven't happened.

The Health and Safety requirements have everyone running scared about prosecutions and heavy fines so they introduce more documented administration to prove everything is going well rather than report on the few incidents that do occur.

It's quite obvious to those tradespeople who have worked in industries for years that bureaucrats are getting even further away from common sense and that perhaps they don't have any at all.

Why should small and medium sized businesses have to buy a Pre Qualification, go through the process of having an administrator give an opinion on the processes and procedures of the business and then report on things that don't happen?

All of the money, time and effort to cover someone's fear of getting prosecuted if something goes wrong.

Would it not be better to train people to a higher standard, reinforce common sense, and put the money and time into actually protecting the workers rather than reporting.

It's no wonder construction cost are so high in New Zealand because the compliance costs are getting out of hand and forcing small competitive

the industry and proved in the Regulation Review Committee that it had, only for the Government to use bully tactics and put in retrospective legislation to make legal that which was illegal.

Times have changed and the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board have turned a corner - they now work with the industry on most issues to get voluntary compliance. Their enforcement processes and procedures are fairer and far more professional, but there are still some historical issues that haunt them such as the Paul Gee case, which has never had a proper review as it got buried in the "don't admit anything" basket.

This would be a good one to get sorted for all concerned. For Paul, and for the industry, it would be great to see a full review of the disciplinary process used in this case so we can all learn from what happened. For something so serious – no one has been charged with the actual explosion at the fish and chip shop – yet it cost one man his house and income to prove his innocence against some shoddy investigating.

The requirements for proving competence are now realistic but the requirements for being qualified still need addressing in our opinion.

The Federation believes the Government could learn from the Board about working with the industry. After years of fighting and time wasting all it took was a change in attitude to get along with the industry and look at what has been achieved over the last two years.

The work of the Board isn't finished yet, but at least they know now how to achieve amicable results and a certain amount of go forward. The Federation believes the relationship between the industry and the Board is in a safe place as long as attitudes remain unchanged.

The big attitude that needs to change is that of the Government whether new or old. Firstly we need a real Minister. One that will listen and take action, not one that sends his minions away to redo work until he gets the answers he believes is right, a Minister of action, not one with as much movement of stagnant water, a Minister who can build bridges with the industry, not one who knows how to build bridges but doesn't.

The Federation wants to progress the industry and wants to have the industry lead by example. It wants it to be the leading regulated industry in New Zealand and have governance and regulation that work hand in hand. It wants that governance and regulation to be affordable, equitable and fair.

The work with the Board is that of maintenance of the relationship and pushing for change in the areas of qualifications and registrations.

The work with the Government is getting what we should already have but don't. We want proper qualifications from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) to assist with real

businesses to close and big business takes over with all their bullshit.

It has even reached the stage where property management companies want copies of OSH plans and such like and if you don't provide you don't get work. We all know whatever is supplied will become a dust collector until needed to pass the buck.

How much work are small and medium sized businesses losing because of safety requirements and such like?

Minor single story roof repairs are getting too costly for people because of scaffolding and edge protection requirements which they have to pay for. We know of some people who have reverted to drip trays discharging outside to catch the rainwater. They say it's cheaper than getting the roof repaired.

What's that type of behaviour doing for the standard of housing in New Zealand?

It appears bureaucrats are creating a society where if it's not written down it doesn't happen. A society where a bureaucrat must say if you are doing it right or wrong.

A society where you have to buy the policies and processes and then have to pay for another organisation to say what you have bought is suitable for a third party to be able to safely employ you to do work on sites they have no

apprenticeships.

We want a proper service and support from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to enforce real training for our industry.

We want real training and a say in the way our Industry Training Organisation (the Skills Organisation) facilitates that training.

We want a mechanism in place for the Governance of our industry so we have one voice.

We want an environment where we are not continually fighting.

Hopefully Mr Peters and New Zealand first live up to their name and put New Zealand First as we want some go forward before skilled people walk away in disgust. The issues facing the industry have been outlined enough so once we know who the Government is the talking will stop and appropriate action will commence.

A briefing note from the LPG Association



22 September 2017

Industry briefing note regarding hoses for use as LPG pigtails.

This note explains the current and hopefully future position regarding types of hoses suitable for use as LPG pigtails.

In the 1996 version of AS/NZS 1869 (Hose and hose assemblies for liquefied petroleum gases (LP Gas), natural gas and town gas), the class of hoses were listed as A to E with type C being recognised as suitable for LPG pigtails.

In the 2012 version of AS/NZS 1869 the class of hoses are listed as type A to H, with type F listed as for use as LPG pigtails.

So to comply with AS/NZS 1869 2012 hoses need to be type F for use as LPG pigtails.

The situation was somewhat confused by the words in the 2013 version of AS/NZS 5601.1 clause 4.6 and by reference paragraph J9 and table J4 which stated that pigtails must be in accordance with AS/NZS 1869 class C or D. However the May 2016 amendment to AS/NZS 5601.1 changed the words in table J4 to simply say that hoses need to comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 1869. (No reference is made to the date, but this is understood to indicate the latest/current iteration of the standard applies.)

The class of hose is significant for a number of reasons including the Maximum Allowable Extractables for each type. The extractables are the Phthalates used to provide flexibility.

control over.

It seems to us that bureaucrats are inventing more ways to make money out of hard working tradespeople - remember it all started with making sure workers are safe in the workplace and now look at where we have gone to.

We believe it has reached the stage where money that could be invested in the workers and equipment is being wasted on administration and keeping bureaucrats employed.

The good work that has been done to raise standards and protect workers is now being undermined to supposedly protect businesses from prosecution.

In a nut shell small and medium sized businesses are paying to cover the big businesses arses or don't get any work because we all know if anything happens the finger will be pointed at us straight away.

We are paying to put our own heads on the chopping block.

It is the phthalates that have been causing equipment failures in continuous flow water heaters.

Type F hoses are allowed up to a maximum of 900 mg/m of hose length when tested using a specific test method detailed in appendix K of AS/NZS 1869 2012.

Type A to D hoses are allowed a maximum of 10% change from initial mass using test method detailed in appendix C of AS/NZS 1869 2012.

For comparison the appendix K test result of 900 mg/m relates to approx. 4% in the appendix C test. So the maximum extractable content of a hose complying with the appendix C test is approximately 2.5 times the maximum allowable under the appendix K test.

The suppliers of LPG pigtails have agreed that they will only supply pigtails which are certified to AS/NZS 1869 2012 type F.

Installers of LPG pigtails must ensure that they only fit pigtails which are certified to AS/NZS 1869 2012 type F.

Peter Gilbert Executive Director.

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