

Western Australian Surveyors Competency Advisory Committee (SCAC) Annual Report – November 2022

Fellow Members

This last year has seen some of the biggest changes within the committee and how it operates with the new WHS Act and Regulations coming into effect on the 31st of March 2022.

With the new WHS Regulations the pre-existing Mine Survey Board (MSB) was dissolved, and a new Surveyors Competency Advisory Committee (SCAC) established. The previous committee members have been renominated and accepted for the new SCAC committee.

The inaugural SCAC meeting was held on the 19th of August 2022 where the SCAC operations, terms of reference and logistics was established and endorsed by the committee. The frequency of the SCAC meetings will be increased in comparison to the previous MSB, where the SCAC will meet monthly for the first 6-12 months during the WHS Regulations transition period and then may decrease to every 2nd month once the new systems and processes have been put in place.

The new 'Law' examination has been endorsed by the SCAC and currently going through Beta testing for a targeted roll out in January 2023.

Mandatory risk management units to be completed as part of the certificate of competency for Mine Surveyors has been endorsed by SCAC however these won't take effect until the WHS legislation has been updated to make it a requirement of the statutory role of a Mine Surveyor. The anticipated date for the legislation update is not known at this stage and we are hoping for this to be completed as soon as possible.

A new Mines Statutory Position Portal (MSPP) has been developed to help facilitate the application, process, verification, and issuance of the statutory certificates of competency for all statutory roles in Western Australia. This portal will also be available to verify and determine currency of certificates issued.

The new application process has been updated to facilitate the use of the MSPP, which now allows for a more streamlined application process utilising recently SCAC endorsed templates and qualification matrix. The submission of supporting documentation has been clearly defined to validate a candidate's record of experience and their proof of good character.

We have taken this opportunity to update the 'tasks' required for a candidate's record of experience and with the inclusion of the 'law' exam we are also updating the 'practical' examination process. The practical examination will continue to be a formal interview and assessment of the candidate's portfolio, conducted by a panel of peers and a SCAC representative, like what has been in place for many years now.

For existing Authorized Mine Surveyors, they will be required to reapply to maintain their Authorisation certificates. This will include submission of proof of identity documents, current authorisation certificate, completion of 'law' exam and completion of the risk management units. The record of experience, proof of qualification and 'practical' exam will not be required. There is a transition window for this to occur which expires on the 1st of April 2025. If existing certificate holders have not reapplied by this time, then they may be required to complete the new candidate application process.



The WA Mine Survey Code of Practise is currently being updated to reflect the new WHS Act and Regulations terms and references. Once this has been completed the content of the Code of Practise will be reviewed and updated by industry representatives to best reflect current surveying practises in the industry.

Again, I thank the AIMS Executive, Directors, and members for their continued support, and I would also like to thank the WA Surveyors for their ongoing support and assistance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Shane Watson', is positioned above the printed name.

Shane Watson
President & SCAC Industry Representative