

Catherine Summerfield

UP FOR CAREER AND CLASSROOM CHALLENGES

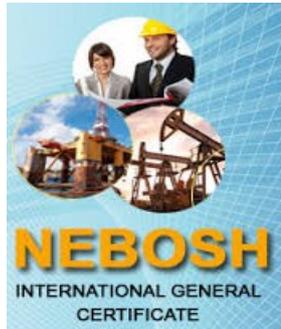
I first joined Spencer Henshaw in May 2015 as a Supervisor for the Driveway Safety Programme on Housing NZ properties. I had been in my previous job for 10 years and applied for this role because I really wanted to try something new — and I certainly wasn't disappointed!

I really enjoyed working outside in the community and helping to keep families, and especially their children, safe. Later, when the Driveway Safety Programme was winding down, I was offered a move into the role of Vacancy Supervisor.



The work was intense and sometimes frustrating, but was always very rewarding — working with a range of trades to get vacant homes ready for families to move into.

NEBOSH is an internationally accredited qualification. The course involved two one-week block courses of full-time classroom training, writing an assignment and sitting two exams. I attended the block courses and exams in work time and did the assignment and other study my own time.



It provided a great networking environment. There were 15 participants with varying backgrounds, from companies as diverse as Air NZ, Foodstuffs, Auckland City Council and NZ Steel. Sharing experiences, discussing ideas, asking questions and having people to turn to, reinforced the learning and made the experience enjoyable and valuable.

It was very intense, immensely informative and really gave me a complete understanding of health and safety – from the importance of developing a robust health and safety policy and

In July 2016 I successfully applied for the role of Health and Safety Officer. I was keen on the safety focus and the opportunity to influence subcontractors to be more productive and more health and safety conscious at the same time, so that they would go home safe and well every day.

“I love the job, and I now see it as my future career path.”

After not having studied formally for quite a while and being somewhat apprehensive, I made a decision to invest some time in my new career. My manager Ben supported the idea of my enrolling in the NEBOSH International General Certificate Health & Safety. Before long my course registration was complete and I had a training agreement with the company, setting out expectations for my performance and completion of the course.

promoting a collaborative health and safety culture within an organisation, to identifying and managing workplace hazards and risks, developing safe systems of work and auditing health and safety systems.

I feel that it will enable me to make a significant contribution to the health and safety culture of SHL and that it has given me much more confidence in my day to day decision making.

I sincerely appreciate the company's investment in my career. It is indicative of its commitment to, and support for, their employees and their professional development.

Finally, I am very pleased to say that I passed what turned out to be a very tough course and have achieved the NEBOSH IGC.

Many thanks to Ben and SHL for this exciting career building opportunity!

Catherine Summerfield
Health & Safety Officer