

26 September 2008

Hon. Trevor Mallard
Minister of Labour/Environment Minister
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Trevor,

The Union writes to you concerning the April 5th 2008 Icepack Coolstore explosion and in particular the recently released Fire Service Report on this incident.

That Report identified there is a lack of clarity in the present regulatory framework that surrounds such establishments.

The Union sees this as completely unacceptable and needing very urgent attention.

If the Icepack Coolstore was compliant with the present regulatory framework, given that it contained at least 400 kg of propane when:

- The Plant had no signage;
- The Fire Service was never notified of the Coolstore;
- There was no water supply for firefighting;
- There was no compliant alarm/protection system;
- There was no evacuation plan;
- There was no odouriser/stenching agent in the refrigeration gas,

then clearly the regulatory framework is grossly inadequate.

Clearly this tragedy has demonstrated the vital interest that Firefighters and their families have in ensuring that proper and adequate protections are provided through robust regulations.

Consequently, the Union seeks advice as to what actions are proposed in a review of the regulatory framework, and confirmation that the Union will be directly involved in such review.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK BEST
SECRETARY