

Homeland Security Qualifications



Vocational Qualifications for the
UK Explosives Industry
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Introduction



Worldwide, explosives handling regulated by law
Prescribed:

- Procedures
- Duties
- Responsibilities
- Obligations

“Competence” not defined till ESA NOS developed

Standards



ESA Standards and qualifications

ESA VQs cover:

Research, design & development

Test & evaluation

Maintenance

Storage

Facilities management

Disposal

Generic

Safety management

Manufacture

Procurement

Transport

Entertainment

Munition clearance & search

What are Standards?



- Performance Criteria
- Underpinning knowledge and understanding
- Contexts

Summary of work (1)



2000 - SSB for EMSO established

2002 – NOS & qualifications in Munition clearance and search completed

2003/6 - 260 NOS and 31 competence-based VQs developed

2007 - Review & revision of Munition clearance and search NOS & extra NOS & search VQ

Summary of work to date (2)



2008:

- Additional NOS and VQs in explosives safety management
- Additional NOS and VQ designs for the use of explosives in entertainment
- New-style VQs in the transport of explosives
- New-style VQs in the management of safety on defence ranges

Summary of work to date (3)



2009 - 2010:

- Dstl centre and scheme approval
- 3 more organizations registering
- Munition clearance and search priorities
- Defence Range Safety
- Movement of Explosives
- Institute of Commercial Management

QCF qualifications



- Units of Assessment (competence/knowledge)
- Level
- Credit values
- Rules of Combination
- Awards, Certificates & Diplomas
- Can be employer-designed

HSQ's explosives qualifications

3 types of vocational qualification:

- 'New-style' Qualifications & Credit Framework (QCF) Awards, Certificates and Diplomas at 4 levels
- 'Old-style' Vocational Qualification (VQ) at 4 levels
- 'Bespoke' qualifications

HSQ ESA VQs



- Based on ESA NOS (competence, knowledge, contexts)
- Occupationally competent, qualified assessors
- Internal and external verification
- Evidence must be current, valid, complete, authentic, sufficient:
 - Observation
 - Witness testimony
 - Photos & recordings
 - Records of candidate's own work
 - Previously recorded achievement
 - Questioning

Bespoke qualifications



- Employer designed
- Accredit:
 - Competence
 - Training

Dstl : a case study

- Explosives Capability Strategy developed and coordination planned
- Training and job roles mapped to ESA NOS
- Registration with HSQ as an assessment centre
- Bespoke/tailored qualifications agreed with HSQ
- Assessors trained
- Pilot scheme
- First HSQ scheme approvals
- First candidates registered with HSQ

Dstl : next steps

- Roll out ESA NOS
- Train more assessors and internal verifiers
- Develop QCF qualifications
- Deliver QCF qualifications

Defining and measuring competence



- Assurance of competence in a safety-critical area
- Systematic development of people:
 - Competence
 - Knowledge
- Mobility of labour, long-term organizational skills development
- Achievement of explosives qualifications

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