



UK explosives competence: the way forward

Denise Clarke

Explosives & Search Competence

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Standards Setting Body for Explosives, Munitions and Search Occupations

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- recognized by government as only developer of relevant National Occupational Standards
- established in 2000 to develop munition clearance standards & qualifications
- approached by MoD in 2003 to develop suite of standards & accreditation routes in explosives



Role of SSB for EMSO

- sets direction
- marketing
- seeks funding
- provides research contacts



Membership of SSB for EMSO

Representation from whole EMSO sector ie:

- military
- MoD non-uniformed
- commercial (eg manufacturers)
- other (eg educational & training establishments)



SSB's products

The SSB has developed:

- 500+ standards
- 31 qualifications
- suite of evidence specifications that accompany the standards
- key skills maps



What are National Occupational Standards?

The standards:

- describe UK standards of best practice
- are written as outcomes
- contain:
 - criteria by which someone's performance would be measured
 - descriptions of the parameters of competent performance
 - critical knowledge and understanding

Uses of National Occupational Standards

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The standards can be used for:

- recruitment
- appraisal
- identifying training needs
- training design
- career management
- succession planning
- etc

The company: Explosives and Search Competence

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Clarke Ltd

- Explosives and Search Competence established
- 4 Directors expert in competence & qualifications-related fields
- all Directors agreed to donate 12 days work gratis
- proportion of operating profit put into ring-fenced fund
- funding generated to be used to complete work on behalf of SSB without reference to government funds

Explosives and Search Competence Directors

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4 Directors expert in competence-related matters:

- MD: Nigel Capel
- Products & Services: Denise Clarke
- Quality: Teresa Gallimore
- Marketing: Garrie Owens



Collaboration with the Institute of Explosives Engineers

- MoD study recommended forming an entity to take work forward
- collaborative venture between the company & Institute
- different roles for the Company, Institute & entity



Roles of parties involved: the company

The company will:

- continue developing standards & awards
- promote vocational competence model
- collate & interpret labour market information
- provide advice on implementation
- develop competence-related materials
- support access to funding & expertise
- provide technical secretariat to SSB



Roles of parties involved: the Institute

The Institute will:

- contribute to developing standards & awards
- contribute to collation & interpretation of labour market information
- encourage & support CPD initiatives
- manage stakeholders' funds provided for CPD purposes



Roles of parties involved: the entity

The entity will:

- act as a focal point and lobby for the ESA community
- engage with stakeholders
- maintain a register of ESA experts
- facilitate secondments & exchanges of personnel
- organize conferences & workshops
- support stakeholders in developing training and/or assessment provision



Next steps

The SSB:

- agree an understanding with the entity
- select services offered by company and the entity
- individual stakeholders consider commissioning work from company



Next steps

The company:

- develop relationships with SSB, SEMTA, Awarding Bodies etc, with Institute
- develop products & services
- establish restricted fund
- ensure SSB has sound relationship with SEMTA and other SSCs



Next steps

The entity:

- develop strategy and plans
- establish databases
- encourage secondments
- support employers and training centres in introducing standards & N/SVQs
- contribute to collation of labour market information



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Questions?

www.deniseclarke.co.uk