

Homeland Security Qualifications



Standards of competence within the
explosives industry & the effect on re-enactment

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Introduction

- Worldwide, explosives handling is regulated by laws which, through regulation, prescribe:
 - Procedures
 - Duties
 - Responsibilities
 - Obligations
- However, whilst implicit, until recently “competence” with explosives has not been defined

Background 1

Early 1980s – UK plc skills below competitors in Europe and Asia

Mid-1980s – new system of measuring competence:

- Industry mapped and analysed
- Standardised format
- Progress and achievement:
 - Internally and externally quality assured
 - Achievable in the workplace
 - Modular qualifications based on competence

Background 2

Late 1980s / Early 1990s – National Occupational Standards (NOS) and National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)

2003 – 30+ NOS and 6 NVQs for bomb disposal and search

2004 – SSB asked to develop NOS and NVQs for the wider explosives industry

Background 3

2006 – 100s of NOS and 24 NVQs developed

Gaps in:

- Demolition
- Mineral extraction – separate framework exists
- Entertainment

2009 – Additional NOS and NVQs in Entertainment and Safety Management developed

National Occupational Standards (NOS) (1)

Specify competence ie:

- Skills
- Knowledge
- Approach

National Occupational Standards (NOS) (2)

NOS specify:

- Title
- Contexts
- Performance criteria
- Knowledge and understanding

Uses



Benefits to individuals

- sense of achievement
- confidence
- public recognition
- national recognition
- flexibility & progressiveness
- transferability
- credit accumulation
- entry to further and/or higher education
- eligibility/other recognition eg professional body membership

Benefits to employers/societies

- practical, observable
- assurance of competence
- recognition
- flexibility
- progression routes
- job enrichment
- design of jobs, career profiles and promotion
- technical and attitudinal fitness
- ability to comply with regulatory/contractual requirements

NVQs

NVQs designed to meet the requirements of:

- the regulatory authorities
- the industry
- awarding bodies

Proof of competence

Mandatory core plus optional units

Industry specifies the structure of the NVQ

NVQs - levels

Level 5 – senior manager/professional (good degree)

Level 4 – manager/professional (= HND/professional qualification)

Level 3 – technician/supervisor (= 2 good GCE A Levels)

Level 2 – trained operator (= 5 good GCSEs)

Level 1 – new entrant/school leaver

VQs Explosives Entertainment

- Level 4 VQ in Explosives Entertainment Management
- Level 3 VQ in Explosives Entertainment Supervision
- Level 2 VQ in Explosives Entertainment Operations

Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)

QCF background:

- Existing system too complex
- Lack of understanding current qualifications
- Learning needed in bite sizes
- Similar issues for Scots, Welsh & NI
- More inclusive framework needed
- More flexibility needed

Summary



NOS & qualifications for most explosives occupations

Developed by and for the industry

Significant advantages on both employers and employees

Increasing regulation & and litigation

Homeland Security Qualifications

9 years staff experience

Enhancing ESA NOS & other qualifications

Approved by the explosives industry

Already has one approved centre

Working toward national accreditation

Homeland Security Qualifications



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Questions?