

# Homeland Security Qualifications



Vocational Standards and Qualifications for the  
UK Explosives Industry – Entertainment

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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?