

Homeland Security Qualifications



Vocational Qualifications for the
UK Explosives Industry
Denise Clarke
PARARI, Adelaide
10 – 12 November 2009

Introduction



Worldwide, explosives handling regulated by law
Prescribed:

- Procedures
- Duties
- Responsibilities
- Obligations

“Competence” not defined till ESA NOS developed

Standards



Summary of work to date (1)



2000 - SSB for EMSO established

2002 - National Occupational Standards (NOS) in Munition clearance and search completed

2003 – NOS & 6 vocational qualifications (VQ) in Munition clearance and search launched

Summary of work to date (2)



2003 - MoD UK asks SSB for explosives NOS and qualifications

2006 – About 250 NOS and 24 competence-based VQs

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

Summary of work to date (3)



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

Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)



QCF background :

- Existing (old) 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

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

ESA NVQs

ESA VQs cover:

Research, design & development

Test & evaluation

Maintenance

Storage

Facilities management

Disposal

Generic

Safety management

Manufacture

Procurement

Transport

Entertainment

Munition clearance & search

Bespoke qualifications



- Employer designed
- Accredit:
 - Competence
 - Training

Dstl : a case study

- Explosives Capability Strategy
- VQ Co-ordinator appointed
- Role profiles
- Trials Conducting Officer
- Pilot to test ESA NOS introduction
- Proof of competence
- Training mapped to ESA NOS
- Assessors trained
- Analysis of competence gaps/training plans
- Assessment centre registration (HSQ)
- Scheme approval (HSQ)
- Registered candidates 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

Homeland Security Qualifications



Denise Clarke
Homeland Security Qualifications
52 Ickburgh Road
London
E5 8AD
United Kingdom

Telephone: 0044 208 806 4910

Email: denise@deniseclarke.co.uk
denise.clarke@homelandsecurityqualifications.co.uk

Websites: www.homelandsecurityqualifications.co.uk
www.deniseclarke.co.uk

www.homelandsecurityqualifications.co.uk