UK explosives competence: the way forward

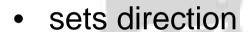
Denise Clarke
Explosives & Search Competence

14 June 2007

Standards Setting Body for Explosives, Munitions and Search Occupations

- 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



- 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:

- c.450 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

The standards can be used for:

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

The company: Explosives and Search Competence

- 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

- 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
- conduct market research

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

Explosive & Search Competence
Developing skills in the explosives munitions and search sector
www.eandsc.co.uk

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

UK explosives competence: the way forward

Questions?

www.eandsc.co.uk

www.deniseclarke.co.uk

www.re-cpd.co.uk