

This newsletter is aimed at all personnel registered on the MCERTS Personnel Competency scheme. It is intended to keep you up-to-date with scheme developments, summarise exam results, provide guidance on some technical aspects and help with future examinations. If you have any comments, suggestions or topics you would like to see included in future editions, please let us know. Send your comments to mcerts@sira.co.uk

Revised Personnel Competency Standard

The MCERTS Personnel Competency Standard has undergone substantial revision. Version 3 of the standard was published in July 2005. The main amendments are summarised below.

- **Limited scope certification**

This applies to in-house personnel who work on less than five sites.

- **Limited Technical Endorsement**

There may be circumstances where personnel with a certification scope limited to specified sites are only required to carry out monitoring of gases/vapours using a single monitoring technique. For example, speciated VOC determination using extractive sampling onto sorbent tubes.

Under these circumstances it is now possible for personnel to apply for a Limited Technical Endorsement for TE3 and TE4. These will be known as LTE3 and LTE4.

- **Training in the absence of a Level 2**

Arrangements have been put in place for the formal training of personnel in organisations that do not have a Level 2 certified person.

- **Role of Level 2**

The revised standard clarifies that site work must be supervised by a Level 2 person, who is actively involved in carrying out the work.

Amended recertification procedure

Originally, MCERTS Competency Certificates had a single renewal date, irrespective of when Technical Endorsements were achieved. It is recognised that personnel may have achieved Technical Endorsements over the course of a few years and each endorsement has a five-year life expectancy.

Therefore, during 2005 all Personnel Competency Certificates are being re-issued. New I/D cards are also being provided. The new certificates indicate an expiry date for each endorsement held. This additional information will help personnel to plan when to apply for recertification based on the renewal dates indicated on their certificate. A dedicated "application for recertification" form is available on the STA web site.

Recertification falls due for some personnel in November 2007.

A bulletin outlining the requirements has been published and is available on the STA web site.

How to obtain certification

Version 3 of the MCERTS Personnel Competency Standard introduces scope limited to specific sites and Limited Technical Endorsements. To illustrate the various routes to certification, we have produced a flow chart, which is available on the MCERTS page of the STA web site.

Certification statistics

There are currently 640 personnel registered on the scheme and 328 certificates have been issued since 2002. Certified personnel on the register are made up as follows:

Level 1	171	Level 2	178
TE1	161	TE2	81
TE3	67	TE4	113

Recent exam results

Of the examinations carried out between April and July 2005 the average pass rate for the various papers is as follows:

Level 1 m/c	90%	TE2 m/c	50%
Level 1 narr	90%	TE2 narr	84%
Level 2 m/c	45%	TE3 m/c	43%
Level 2 oral	63%	TE3 narr	71%
TE1 m/c	68%	TE4 m/c	63%
TE1 narr	55%	TE4 narr	88%

Future examination dates

Future examination dates for 2005/06 have been published on the STA web site.

Examination board

The next exam board meetings are scheduled for 7 December 2005 and 9 March 2006. Examination results will be available approximately 2 weeks after each meeting.

Attendance at examinations

With over six hundred personnel registered on the MCERTS scheme, we are increasingly finding some personnel with similar or (in some cases) identical names. Therefore, it is becoming increasingly important to identify

personnel by their registration number (e.g. MM05 999).

Please bring your I/D card with you to all examination events and include your registration number in all correspondence.

Training Courses

April 2006 marks the end of the transitional period for MCERTS personnel. STA has increased the number of training courses available and introduced some new ones. Revision courses will concentrate on the Technical Endorsements from October 2005. The first TE5 course is scheduled for November 2005, subject to the publication of EA guidance M15. If you intend to carry out PM₁₀ monitoring make sure you reserve a place.

The Health & Safety Risk Assessment course has been updated to include the new "Work at Height Regulations 2005". Certificates are valid for a period of 5 years so make sure to check your certificate is "in-date".

There are new Level 1 (2-day) and Level 2 (4-day) courses and a 5-day course for those wishing to go through both Level 1 and Level 2.

Contact details

Sira maintains a list of personnel registered on the scheme. As competency certification is awarded to the individual, not to their employer it is the individual's responsibility to inform Sira of changes in contact details. If changes occur please update Sira by telephoning Debbie Collins on 0208 468 1842 or send an email to debbie.collins@sira.co.uk