

This newsletter is aimed at all personnel registered on the MCERTS Personnel Competency Certification 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@siraenvironmental.com.

We have moved

Sira relocated to new premises in June. Our new contact details are as follows:

Sira Certification Service
12, Acorn Industrial Park
Crayford Road, Crayford
Dartford, Kent.
DA1 4AL

Tel: 01322 520500
Fax: 01322 520501

Contact Bob Cooper or Pat Blazdell with any queries about the MCERTS Personnel Competency Certification Scheme.

Bob Cooper
bob.cooper@siraenvironmental.com
01322 520505

Pat Blazdell
pat.blazdell@siraenvironmental.com
01322 520503

Certification statistics

There are currently 780 personnel registered on the scheme and 391 certificates have been issued since 2002. Certified personnel are made up as follows:

Level 1	158	Level 2	233
TE1	257	TE2	140
TE3	125	TE4	181

Exam board meetings

Exam board meetings are scheduled for 14 December 2006 and 8 March 2007.

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.

MCERTS Standards update

Three MCERTS documents have recently been updated and are available to view/download from the MCERTS website www.mcerts.net

- Personnel Competency Standard – Sept 2006
- Examination Syllabuses – April 2006
- Guidance for Personnel and Organisations – May 2006

Project Steering Committee

If you have any comments or feedback on the operation of the scheme, please let us know and we will discuss them at the next meeting.

Level 2 – failure rate

Results of Level 2 exams indicate an unusually high failure rate. Personnel are reminded that the requirement for 6 months experience at Level 1 is a minimum requirement. Some recent applicants do not appear to have sufficient experience to convince the examiners of their suitability as Level 2 team leaders. Applicants will be required to provide evidence of experience before they will be permitted to sit the Level 2 exam.

Also, it is recommended that personnel sit at least one Technical Endorsement before applying for Level 2.

Examination dates 2007

The following examination dates are set for 2007:

Level 2

Chester	Jan 24 (full) May 23, July 18, Oct 24
York	Jan 25, May 24, July 19, Oct 24
Nottingham	Jan 30, May 1, July 31, Oct 30
Peterborough	Jan 31, May 2, Aug 1, Oct 31
Stroud	Feb 14, May 9, Nov 14

Written papers

Hitchin	Feb 1 & 2, May 3 & 4, Aug 2 & 3, Nov 1 & 2
Chester	Feb 8 & 9, May 17 & 18 July 26 & 27, Nov 8 & 9
Stroud	Feb 15 & 16 May 10 & 11 Nov 15 & 16

Occasionally, examinations are re-scheduled. Check the STA web-site for an up-to-date calendar of examination dates www.s-t-a.org

Trainees – end of transitional arrangements

There are currently 300 personnel registered on the scheme who have yet to take any examinations. Some of these registered back in 2002.

Sira will be contacting all trainees shortly to remind them that they will be removed from the register after 5 years if they have made no attempt to progress through the scheme. Anybody removed from the register will be required to register again (and pay a registration fee) if they wish to remain registered.

Since the introduction of the MCERTS scheme, various transitional arrangements have been in place. For example, personnel who registered on the scheme prior to August 2003 were permitted to enter the scheme at Level 2 (i.e. it was not necessary to complete Level 1 exams). These transitional arrangements will end on 1 January 2007.

Work records

Personnel are required to maintain a record of stack-emission monitoring experience to demonstrate that they meet the MCERTS experience requirements.

The record should be signed by an appropriate Level 2 person.

MCERTS personal stack monitoring record sheets, together with guidelines on how to fill them in are available to download from the Sira website www.sira.co.uk and the STA website www.s-t-a.org

This is the preferred format for work records.

Surveillance

Personnel who have not worked at their certified level for two years shall be deemed to have forfeited their certification.

Therefore, personnel will be required to submit evidence to Sira (in the form of work records) that they have not had a gap from stack-emission monitoring and that they continue to meet the requirements.

Sira will be requesting evidence in the form of work records from candidates in the future.