

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@siraenvironmental.com.

MCERTS Code of Conduct

All MCERTS personnel agree to comply with the MCERTS Code of Conduct. The Code requires applicants to comply with the relevant provisions of the MCERTS manual stack-emission monitoring scheme, outlined in the current edition of the MCERTS Personnel Competency Standard and MCERTS Performance Standard for Organisations. The requirements of the Code of Conduct must be followed by MCERTS certified personnel on all occasions.

The MCERTS examination board will investigate complaints made against personnel who fail to comply with the Code of Conduct. Level 2 Personnel may be required to retake their Level 2 oral examination if the MCERTS examination board receives and upholds a complaint against them of a serious nature.

Health & Safety

The MCERTS scheme emphasises the importance of Health & Safety of personnel and requires that all relevant safety guidance is followed.

All MCERTS certified personnel are expected to follow the relevant safety guidance whenever they are carrying out stack emission monitoring.

Relevant guidance is included in the STA "Risk Assessment Guide for Industrial Emission Monitoring" and in the Environment Agency Technical Guidance Note M1 "Sampling Requirements for Stack Emission Monitoring"

Safe Working Platforms

All platforms, whether permanent or temporary should meet the minimum weight criteria required for sampling. Where this is not achievable (i.e. for temporary scaffold platforms) they must be constructed to a specific minimum "scafftag" category of "heavy duty" or meet the requirements stated in the monitoring standard, whichever is the greater.

Sampling from mobile access platforms, "cherry pickers" or ladders is not acceptable.

Level 2 Personnel are responsible for the Health & Safety of the monitoring team and risk being excluded from the MCERTS scheme if they do not comply with these requirements at all times.

Fatal Accident

A recent fatality has highlighted the importance of Health & Safety of personnel involved in stack emission monitoring.

Two stack testers were sampling at a refinery near Rome, Italy when the mobile platform they were working from collapsed. One of them died, the other was seriously injured.

Further details are available here.....

www.s-t-a.org/safety/newsflash/

Exam board meetings

Exam board meetings are scheduled for 14 March and 12 June 2008. Exam results will be notified to candidates shortly after each exam board meeting. Exam results will NOT be given out over the telephone.