



Level 3 Award in Risk Assessment Principles and Practice

A General introduction

The expected outcome is that the candidate understands the main categories of accidents and ill health, their socio-economic costs and recognises the benefits of good health and safety management and is able to:

1. State the main causes of injuries and ill health and the need for their prevention;
2. State the main costs of accidents and ill health to employers, employees and society;
3. Define the terms 'accident' and 'occupational health and safety';
4. Explain what is meant by the term 'accident triangle' and the need to report, investigate and prevent near misses/minor accidents as part of an overall accident prevention strategy;
5. State that health and safety is affected by occupational, environmental and human factors, with examples.

B Principles of risk assessment

The expected outcome is that the candidate understands the reasons for using risk assessment and the principles involved and is able to:

1. List the reasons for using risk assessment;
2. Describe what is meant by the term 'risk assessment';
3. Define the terms 'hazard', 'risk' and 'control measure' and give examples of each;
4. State how the extent of risks can be quantified and describe at least one method for rating or prioritising risks;
5. Describe the necessary skills of a risk assessor and give examples of personnel who should be involved in a risk assessment programme.

C Legislation

The expected outcome is that the candidate becomes aware of the range of legal requirements for risk assessment, understands the key aspects and the necessity to seek guidance on specific requirements and is able to:

1. Explain the origin and reasons for the general requirement to assess risks with reference to the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*;
2. Outline the main provisions on risk assessment in the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999*;
3. Give examples of other Regulations with specific requirements for risk assessment;
4. Briefly describe how the legislation is enforced and penalties for non-compliance.

NOTE: Candidates will not be expected to state specific sections or regulations.

D Risk assessment in practice

The expected outcome is that the candidate links the theoretical knowledge obtained to practical examples of workplaces and activities and is able to:

1. State the stages involved in a risk assessment;
2. Identify a range of hazards in various working environments;
3. Identify people or items at risk;
4. Identify common risks which require specialised assessment;
5. Measure the extent of a variety of risks;
6. Select appropriate control measures and be aware of the need for research/specialist advice;
7. State the necessity of, and procedures for, recording, monitoring and revising risk assessments;
8. Carry out a risk assessment in practice demonstrating the ability to analyse a situation, collect information and make appropriate judgements and records.

E Summary

The expected outcome is that the candidate understands some of the wider management issues regarding implementation of risk assessment programmes and is able to:

1. State the costs and benefits of implementing a risk assessment programme;
2. State how risk assessments can link with the related management issues of quality and training;
3. Carry out a self evaluation identifying areas where skill, technical knowledge and/or experience are lacking;
4. State sources of further advice and information.