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NEBOSH

Certificate in Fire Safety

Learner guide



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Qualification overview

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Qualification key features

Unit prefixes and title/s:	Unit FSC1: Fire safety Unit FSC2: Fire risk assessment	
Assessment:	Assessment Type	Assessment Time
Unit FSC1:	Open book examination (OBE)	5 hours
Unit FSC2:	Practical	3 hours
Modes of study:	Taught (face-to-face), open and distance learning Part-time Block release eLearning	
Notional learning hours	Taught hours: 28 Private study: 20 Assessment: 8 Total hours: 56	
Qualification level and number of credits:	Notional SCQF Level 6 with 6 credits (equivalent to RQF Level 3)	
Entry requirements:	None	
Recommended minimum standards of English:	Learner: International English Language Testing System 6.0 or higher	
Languages available:	English	
Assessment dates	On demand for FSC2 only and FSC1 - four set OBE assessment dates per year	
Pass standards:	Unit FSC1: 45 marks Unit FSC2: Pass standard contained in guidance A 'Pass' must be achieved in both units to achieve the Certificate in Fire Safety	
Qualification grades:	The qualification grade is based on the result from Unit FSC1 Distinction: 75 marks or higher Credit: 65 - 74 marks Pass: 45 - 64 marks	

Qualification summary

Qualification summary

Who is the qualification designed for?

This qualification is designed for anyone who has fire safety responsibilities in a small to medium sized organisation. It provides the knowledge and understanding, when combined with relevant experience, to carry out an effective fire risk assessment, as well as embed good practice in the workplace.

Benefits for you

The Fire Safety Certificate (FSC) will allow you to:

- ensure your organisation meets its fire safety responsibilities;
- understand the risk to people and buildings from fire and explosion hazards;
- recognise what control measures will be required to prevent or mitigate the effects of fire and explosion;
- recognise what should be included in emergency plans and what should be done to ensure the effective evacuation of buildings; and
- prepare a fire risk assessment.

Benefits for your employer

When you achieve the NEBOSH Certificate in Fire Safety, you will have the knowledge, skills and understanding to help your employer to prevent fires from happening and minimise fire impact if they do. In the long run, this could not only save lives but save your employer the huge costs associated with

NEBOSH 'puts you at the top of the pile'

With 30 years' experience within Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, it could be argued that Rick Phillips had little to prove in terms of competence and capability in his role as Senior Fire Officer at Humberside Airport.



It's a role Rick took on after retiring from the Fire Service back in 2015

and which he has relished ever since. However, he certainly hasn't been prepared to rest on his laurels. He is responsible for health, safety and environmental matters at the airport, which has taken Rick into areas beyond his norm.

"There's a lot to consider health, safety and environmental-wise and that's how it is with everything here. Take the de-icing of an aircraft for example. It really is quite wide-ranging. Although I wasn't in the health and safety section in the brigade, we all worked very closely when doing operational training around risk assessments for example, so I knew a lot already when I came here. I'd also completed my NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety back in 2003, which I found really helpful in the latter part of my career."

However, Rick decided he needed more qualifications in his new role at the airport. "I actually started with the NEBOSH National Certificate in Fire Safety and Risk Management, which it's fair to say I didn't really struggle with. I then took the NEBOSH Certificate in Environmental Management and went on to the NEBOSH National Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety, which has been incredibly useful all round."

Qualification summary

a major fire such as loss of business, repairs to buildings and equipment as well as those associated with criminal prosecution and claims for compensation. Even a minor fire at a key production stage can mean very large losses for individual organisations.

Professional membership

NEBOSH intend to ask the following membership bodies for professional recognition at the following levels:

International Institute of Risk and Safety Management	Associate	AIIRSM
Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)	Associate	AIOSH
Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)	Technical	Tech IOSH
Institute of Fire Prevention Officers (IFPO)	Technician	TIFPO
Institute of Fire Prevention Officers (IFPO)	Associate*	AMIFPO

* The qualification may meet the academic requirements for membership. Relevant skills and experience will also be required to apply for Associate Membership. Please refer to the IFPO's website for further information <https://ifpo.org.uk/membership/>. Qualification holders with the relevant skills and experience may also apply to join the IFPO Fire Risk Assessors register.

Qualification summary

Achieving the qualification

The FSC has two-unit assessments (see 'Qualification key features' for details on the assessments and the pass standards); you must achieve a 'Pass' in both units to be awarded the qualification.

You will have five years to complete your qualification. The five-year period starts from the date you passed your first successful unit (we call this the 'declaration date'). Any unit that is five or more years old will not count towards the qualification and you will need to retake this/these unit(s) if you still want to complete the qualification

Re-sitting unit(s)

You may re-sit a unit assessment if:

- you achieved a 'Pass' in a unit that is five or more years old and you need it to achieve the qualification;
- you are 'Referred' (ie, don't pass); or
- want to retake Unit FSC1 to get a higher grade (Unit FSC2 is 'Pass' or 'Refer' and does not count towards the qualification grade)

There is no limit to the number of times you can re-sit unit(s) within the five-year period. A refund will not be given if you register to re-sit a unit before an original unit result is known. If your re-sit result is lower than the original mark, you will keep the original mark awarded for the unit. Re-sit marks are not capped

NEBOSH helped me find the dream job I'd never heard of

Victoria Casey is a Risk Consultant for one of the UK's largest insurers, Aviva. Her job is to carry out surveys of business properties to provide her colleagues in underwriting with a better understanding of the risks they are providing cover for. During the survey Victoria encourages customers to reduce their risks and exposures by adopting best practice risk management procedures.



"This is my absolute dream job and I couldn't be happier," she told us. "I feel like I uncover something new every day and the learning never actually stops, which is something I really do love. It's a job I would never have got without my NEBOSH qualifications, and personally I believe it's a job that couldn't be done without them. Not only did my NEBOSH General Certificate and Fire Certificate fill in so many blanks as far as my knowledge was concerned, the qualifications gave me so much confidence and helped me, and still do help me almost every day, to demonstrate my competence. Now I'm really looking forward to taking things to the next level!."

Qualification summary

Re-sitting FSC1 to improve your grade

If you want to try to improve your grade in Unit FSC1, you need to tell us in writing within 20 working days of the declaration date of your second successful unit. Otherwise, a qualification parchment will automatically be issued showing the original declaration date.

Finding where to study

You can search for Learning Partners (the people that provide your training course) using the 'Where to study' tab on our website: www.nebosh.org. Note: it is best to check directly with the Learning Partner for up-to-date information on course dates.

Qualification grading and issue of qualification parchment

Your qualification grade is based only on the result from the open book examination (Unit FSC1). But you need to achieve a 'Pass' in both units (FSC1 and FSC2) before the parchment can be issued. The grading boundaries are as follows:

75+	Distinction
65-74	Credit
45-64	Pass
0-44	Refer

When you have completed both units, you are normally considered to have completed the whole qualification. We will then send you a qualification parchment within 40 working days of your final successful unit. We will only issue individual unit certificates on written request.

Once we issue the result of the second successful unit, you have 20 working days to submit an Enquiry About Result (EAR) request; please see the EAR policy for further information: www.nebosh.org.uk/policies-and-procedures/enquiries-about-results-ears.

Syllabus

Syllabus summary

Element		Recommended tuition hours	Suggested self-study hours	Assessment
1	Managing fire safety	2	20	Unit FSC1: Fire safety Open book examination Unit FSC2: Fire risk assessment Practical assessment
2	Principles of fire and explosion	5		
3	Fuel, oxygen and ignition sources and control measures	4		
4	Fire protection of buildings	7		
5	Safety of people in the event of fire	4		
6	Fire safety risk assessment	6		

* The timings detailed in the columns above indicate suggested hours for each of the elements.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning outcome The learner will be able to:	Related content (elements)	Assessment criteria
Justify fire safety improvements using moral and financial arguments	1.1–1.2	<p>Discuss the moral and financial advantages of good fire safety management in the workplace</p> <p>Summarise how fire safety is regulated and the roles of national government and international bodies.</p>
Advise how fires and explosions can occur and the appropriate controls to minimise fire and explosion risks	2.1–2.3 3.1–3.2	<p>Describe the principles of combustion in relation to fire safety</p> <p>Give an overview of the principles and conditions for the ignition of solids, liquids and gases and the controls that can be put in place</p> <p>Outline the principles of explosion and explosive combustion and the controls that can be put in place</p>
Advise their employer on the requirements for the fire protection of premises and workers including the appropriate training obligations	4.1–4.6 5.1–5.4	<p>Outline the principles for fire protection, detection, and prevention</p> <p>Summarise the requirements for the maintenance of escape routes and fire extinguishing equipment, including access for the fire service</p> <p>Be aware of the different types of fire extinguishing methods and the need for training on their use</p> <p>Understand the behaviours of people during fires and why emergency plans are required</p> <p>Understand why fire safety training requirements are needed for all workers</p>

Syllabus

Learning outcome The learner will be able to:	Related content (elements)	Assessment criteria
Do a fire risk assessment in their own workplace – prioritising risks, inspecting the workplace, recognising a range of common fire hazards, evaluating risks (taking account of current controls), recommending further control measures, planning actions	6.1–6.3	Explain the principles of the fire risk assessment process and be able to carry out a fire risk assessment of a workplace.