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NEBOSH General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety



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NEBOSH General Certificate in Health and Safety

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Before You Start

Is the course right for you?

The NEBOSH General Certificate is a foundation level qualification for people new to health and safety. It's suitable for all types of workers, from budding health and safety officers to HR managers and even company directors.

In fact, 70% of people who take the course are employed in jobs where health and safety isn't their main role. Including:

- ▶ Health and safety officers
- ▶ General managers and supervisors
- ▶ Public service workers
- ▶ HR managers
- ▶ Operational managers
- ▶ Security workers
- ▶ Directors/CEO's

The course is largely recognised as the perfect way to kick-start a career in health and safety. But it's also great if you just want to improve your knowledge to be able to do your job better.

The NEBOSH General Certificate will help develop your understanding of general workplace issues and how they can be applied in different sectors. That way you'll know just what to do to create a safe and healthy workplace. And you'll feel confident to make recommendations to your employer to help them improve health and safety management.

Entry requirements

There aren't any! You don't need any health and safety knowledge or experience to take the course, which is why it's so popular.

Before You Start

National vs International: Which one is right for you?

The NEBOSH General Certificate is available in two versions: National and International. Both follow the same syllabus and have the same learning outcomes. But they reference different regulations in the details.

NEBOSH National General Certificate

The NEBOSH National General Certificate is based on UK legislation and enforcement agencies. This includes the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

If you work in the UK, then the National version will make sure you're working to British standards.



NEBOSH International General Certificate

The NEBOSH International General Certificate takes a broader approach based on best practice and international standards, like the International Labour Organisation (ILO) codes of practice. They cover local laws and cultural factors when appropriate, too.

If you work outside the UK or travel a lot, then the International version will be more useful.



Before You Start

Is the NEBOSH General Certificate recognised in your country?

The NEBOSH General Certificate has been taken in over 180 countries.

It's listed as a minimum requirement for health and safety roles all around the world. And it's recognised by employers as a key management qualification.

It's also accepted as entry to lots of global professional organisations which give you access to a world of exclusive resources. Here are just some of the professional memberships that accept the NEBOSH General Certificate and the level it'll get you.

Organisation	Level
Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (IOSH)	Associate membership (AIOSH) and Technical membership (TechIOSH) (UK learners only)
International Institute of Risk Safety Management (IIRSM)	Associate membership (AIIRSM)
South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (SAIOSH)	Associate Membership
Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals (BCRSP)	Canadian Registered Safety Technician (CRST) and Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP)

Why Take The NEBOSH General Certificate?

Protect your colleagues from life-changing injuries.

Accidents and work-related ill-health effects all types of workplaces around the world. And most of them can be avoided with good health and safety management.

The NEBOSH General Certificate will teach you how to put in place basic safe systems of work. You'll learn about health and safety management systems and the processes people need to follow. That way, you'll be able to make sure everyone is working safely.

You'll also develop the skills to that you can identify and control workplace hazards in any industry. So you'll be able to make sure your workplace is a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Kick start a career in health and safety

The NEBOSH General Certificate opens the door to a life-long career within health and safety. More than a third of HSE job advertisements list the NEBOSH General Certificate as an essential qualification. And it's recognised by employers as an important general management qualification.

It's also the starting block for further study. Like the NEBOSH Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety or NEBOSH specialist certificates.

Keep your company compliant

Bad health and safety is dangerous for people and business. Employers can find themselves dealing with lots of damaging consequences if there's an accident at work. These include criminal prosecution (fines and imprisonment), direct costs of absence, claims for compensation and damage to their reputation and profitability.

The NEBOSH General Certificate will teach you all about health and safety legislation and regulation. So, you'll be able to advise your employer on how to stay compliant and protect them from any nasty surprises.

Why Take The NEBOSH General Certificate?

Join a global health and safety community

The NEBOSH General Certificate is accepted by professional membership organisations all around the world. They give you exclusive access to resources and networking events so you can stay up-to-date on all the latest industry changes and innovations.

You'll be part of a network of health and safety professionals at all levels. All working towards one common goal: to make sure people are safe and healthy at work.



Course Overview

Course level

The NEBOSH General Certificate is recognised as a level-3 vocational qualification on the UK Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) and Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). That's like an A-level.

In the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF), it's recognised as a level 6 with 15 credit points. In the National Framework Qualification for Ireland, it's recognised as a level 5.

In South Africa, the NEBOSH General Certificate is equivalent to a SAMTRAC level 5. And in Australia it's recognised as the same level as the Australian Certificate IV in Work Health and Safety.

Course structure

NG/IG: Management of health and safety	Tuition Hours	Self study hours	Assessment
Element 1: Why we should manage workplace health and safety	6		Online open book exam
Element 2: How health and safety management systems work and what they look like	2	20	
Element 3: Managing risk – understanding people and processes	14		
Element 4: Health and safety monitoring and measuring	7		
Element 5: Physical and psychological health	7		Practical risk assessment
Element 6: Musculoskeletal health	6		
Element 7: Chemical and biological agents	6	20	
Element 8: General workplace issues	10		
Element 9: Work equipment	5		
Element 10: Fire	3		
Element 11: Electricity	2		

Course Overview

Learning outcomes

The NEBOSH General Certificate has 11 learning outcomes.

By the end of the course, you'll be able to:

1. Justify the need for health and safety improvements
2. Advise on duties under the main pieces of health and safety legislation
3. Help your organisation to manage contractors
4. Work within a health and safety management system
5. Positively influence health and safety culture and behaviour
6. Carry out a general risk assessment (using a 5-step approach) of your workplace
7. Recognise workplace changes and their impacts, and understand how to minimise these impacts
8. Develop basic safe systems of work that include emergency arrangements and know when to use a permit-to-work system
9. Take part in incident investigations
10. Help your employer check the effectiveness of their health and safety management system through monitoring, auditing and review



Full Course Syllabus

Element 1: Why we should manage workplace health and safety.

Element 1 is different between the National and international versions of the course

National version (NG):

- 1.1 Morals and money
- 1.2 The force of the law – punishment and compensation
- 1.3 The most important legal duties for employers and workers
- 1.4 Managing contractors effectively

International version (IG):

- 1.1 Morals and money
- 1.2 Regulating health and safety
- 1.3 Who does what in organisations

The rest of the syllabus stays the same

Element 2: How health and safety management systems work and what they look like.

- 2.1 What they are and the benefits they bring
- 2.2 What good health and safety management systems look like

Element 3: Managing risk – understanding people and processes.

- 3.1 Health and safety culture
- 3.2 Improving health and safety culture
- 3.3 How human factors influence behaviour
- 3.4 Assessing risk
- 3.5 Management of change
- 3.6 Safe systems of work
- 3.7 Permit-to-work systems
- 3.8 Emergency procedures

Element 4: Health and safety monitoring and measuring.

- 4.1 Active and reactive monitoring
- 4.2 Investigating incidents
- 4.3 Health and safety auditing
- 4.4 Review of health and safety performance

Element 5: Physical and psychological health.

- 5.1 Noise
- 5.2 Vibration
- 5.3 Radiation
- 5.4 Mental ill-health
- 5.5 Violence at work
- 5.6 Substance abuse at work

Full Course Syllabus

Element 6: Musculoskeletal health.

- 6.1 Work-related upper limb disorders
- 6.2 Manual handling
- 6.3 Load-handling equipment

Element 7: Chemical and biological agents.

- 7.1 Hazardous substances
- 7.2 Assessment of health risks
- 7.4 Control measures
- 7.5 Specific agents

Element 8: General workplace issues.

- 8.1 Health, welfare and work environment
- 8.2 Working at height
- 8.3 Safe working in confined spaces
- 8.4 Lone working
- 8.5 Slips and trips
- 8.6 Safe movement of people and vehicles
- 8.7 Work-related driving

Element 9: Work equipment.

- 9.1 General requirements
- 9.2 Hand-held tools
- 9.3 Machinery hazards
- 9.4 Control measures for machinery

Element 10: Fire.

- 10.1 Fire principles
- 10.2 Preventing fire and fire spread
- 10.3 Fire alarms and fire-fighting
- 10.4 Fire evacuation

Element 11: Electricity.

- 11.1 Hazards and risks
- 11.2 Control measures



Assessment

Assessment format

The NEBOSH General Certificate has two assessments: an open book exam and practical risk assessment. You must pass both to achieve your full qualification.

Open book exam (NG1/IG1)

NG1/IG1 is an open book exam which you type and submit online. You'll be asked to carry out a series of tasks which relate back to elements 1-4.

The aim of the exam is to test your ability to apply your learning to the workplace. Your answers should be relevant to the given situation and, when appropriate, reference evidence from it directly.

The overall paper is worth a total of 100 marks.

Practical assessment (NG2/IG2)

NG2/IG2 is a marked risk assessment. You'll need to demonstrate your practical understanding of elements 5 to 11 and relate this back to the theory from previous elements.

The risk assessment is split into 4 stages:

- ▶ Description of organisation and methodology
- ▶ Risk assessment
- ▶ Actions and justifications
- ▶ Review, communicate and check

Each stage is assessed individually, and you must pass all 4 stages to pass.

Assessment

Pass rates

You must pass both assessments to achieve your NEBOSH General Certificate.

The pass marks are set at:

N/IG1

45 marks

N/IG2

Pass

Your overall qualification grade will be awarded to you based on your result from NG1/IG1.

Pass

45 - 64 marks

Credit

65 - 74 marks

Distinction

75+ marks



Assessment

Exam dates

NG1/IG1 open book exams are held throughout the year. You need to register before your chosen exam date at least 5 weeks before.

NG2/IG2 practical risk assessments can be submitted at various times throughout the year. As with the NG1/NG2, you need to register to submit your practical 5 weeks before your chosen date.

For all exam and assessment information, the exam dates, the exam process and how to book, **visit the Exam Hub on our website:** astutis.com/help-centre/exam-hub/nebosh-general-certificate



Assessment

Exam results

NEBOSH will email you your results within 10 weeks of sitting your exam or submitting your assessment. If you haven't received your results in that time, then contact your course provider and they'll be able to help.

Your hard copy certificate will be sent to you within 40 days of passing your second unit. It will display your final qualification grade: pass, credit or distinction.





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