



RADIATION PROTECTION BOARD

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Qualified Experts under the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Regulations (LN44/2003)

1. Purpose

Each radiation employer needs to have access to appropriate radiation protection advice to ensure safety of workers and others. This advice can be sought from the employer's qualified expert.

2. Legal Requirements

1. Every radiation employer is required in virtue of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Regulations to appoint a qualified expert.
2. The qualified expert shall be approved by the Radiation Protection Board.
3. Information on training required by qualified experts, is given by European Commission in Annex I of Communication from the Commission 98/C 133/03.

3. Obligations of the radiation employer with respect to qualified experts

The radiation employer remains responsible for all aspects of radiation safety

1. Radiation employer shall appoint one or more qualified experts in writing, and such appointment shall include the scope of the advice which the qualified expert is required to give.
2. Radiation employer to consult qualified expert with respect to the following aspects of Controlled or Supervised areas:
 - a. Delineation;
 - b. Monitoring of the working area;
 - c. Signage;
 - d. Written procedures for that area,
3. Prior critical examination of plans,
4. Acceptance into service of new equipment ,
5. Regular checking of the effectiveness of protective devices and techniques,
6. Regular calibration of measuring equipment ,
7. Any other obligations of the radiation employer with respect to the regulations.

4. Role of the qualified expert

To provide advice to enable the radiation employer comply with the regulations and: achieving and maintaining optimal level of radiation protection.

5. Role of the Radiation Protection Board

1. Set criteria for approval of qualified experts,
2. Approve qualified experts against the criteria Reg 11(2),
3. Constantly review criteria to ensure compliance with the latest European Union recommendations,
4. Assist in the training of Qualified Experts for certain applications.

6. Criteria for Qualified Experts

The Radiation Protection Board has set the criteria for the different applications on the 4 generic requirements stated below:

- i. The Training, knowledge and experience of radiation protection listed in “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- ii. A degree in diagnostic radiography, medicine, or other physical science or a suitable combination of other qualifications and experience, and
- iii. Sufficient work experience directly concerned with radiation protection practice.
- iv. Sufficient points of Continued Professional Development (CPD) as listed in Annex 1.

The specific criteria set for different applications is:

6.1 Diagnostic Radiology

- Degree in physical science, or diagnostic radiography, or medical doctor, and
- 5 years full time work experience in a radiology department/clinic, and
- Attendance at radiation protection training course within the past four years covering the required topics from: “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- 100 points of CPD.

6.2 Radiotherapy

- Specialist post graduate training in radiotherapy physics to MSc level, and
- 7 years full time work experience in radiotherapy department, and
- Attendance overseas in specialist training courses appropriate to the Health Physics in a Radiotherapy, and
- 100 points of CPD.

6.3 Nuclear Medicine

- Degree in physical science, or diagnostic radiography, or medical doctor, and
- 5 years full time work experience in nuclear medicine department, and
- Attendance at radiation protection training course within the past four years covering the required topics from: “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- 100 points of CPD.

6.4 Dentistry

An approval certificate in 6.1 (Diagnostic Radiology),

or

- Degree in physical science, or diagnostic radiography, or registered dentist, and
- 2 years full time work experience in dentistry, and
- Attendance at radiation protection training course within the past four years covering the required topics from: “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- 70 points of CPD.

6.5 Veterinary Radiography

An approval certificate in 6.1 (Diagnostic Radiology),

or

An approval certificate in 6.6 (Non Destructive Testing),

or

- Degree in physical science, or diagnostic radiography, or registered vet, and
- 5 years full time work experience in veterinary practice, and
- Attendance at radiation protection training course within the past four years covering the required topics from: “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- 70 points of CPD.

6.6 Non-Destructive Testing

- Degree in physical science, or independently qualified level II or Level III industrial radiographer, and
- 5 years registered work, and
- Attendance at radiation protection training course within the past five years covering the required topics from: “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- 100 points of CPD.

6.7 Fixed Gauges and fixed screening devices, including X-Ray Diffraction

An approval certificate in 6.6 (Non Destructive Testing),

or

An Approval certificate in 6.8 (Mobile Gauges and mobile screening devices),

or

- 2 years full time work experience with equipment, and
- Attendance at radiation protection training course within the past five year covering the required topics from: “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- 60 points of CPD.

6.8 Mobile Gauges and mobile screening devices

An approval certificate in 6.6 (Non Destructive Testing),

or

- Degree in physical science, or level II or Level III industrial radiographer, and
- 5 years work experience with mobile equipment, and
- Attendance at radiation protection training course within the past two years covering the required topics from: “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- 80 points of CPD.

6.9 Research with unsealed sources

- Degree in physical science or , diagnostic radiography, and
- 5 years full time work experience with unsealed sources, and
- Attendance at radiation protection training course within the past two years covering the required topics from: “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- 80 points of CPD.

6.10 Research with x-ray equipment and sealed sources

- Degree in physical science or , diagnostic radiography, and
- 5 years full time work experience with sealed/x-ray equipment sources, and
- Attendance at radiation protection training course within the past two years covering the required topics from: “Basic Syllabus for the Qualified Expert” as set out in Annex I of the Commission communication 98/C 133/03, and
- 80 points of CPD.

6.11 Other applications

- Criteria to be defined on a case by case bases

Individuals with other appropriate and equivalent qualifications, work experience and training for any of the above specific applications can be considered on a case by case basis.

7 Approval Process

1. Candidates to supply written evidence through an employer or directly to the Radiation Protection Board proving that they meet the criteria for a particular application.
 2. Application to be reviewed by OHSA
 3. Applicant may be called for interview
 4. The approval to the candidate may be subject to conditions and will be valid for a period not exceeding 3 years.
 5. Rejections stating which criteria have not been met
- Once approved by the Radiation Protection Board a Radiation Employer may appoint that person as his Qualified Expert

8 Re-Approval

Candidates for re-approval to supply documented Continued Professional Development at least six months prior to the expiry date.

APPENDIX 1

The list below outlines seven (7) different activities that, if carried out, will award points towards the Continuing Professional Development of an individual aspiring to become approved as a Qualified Expert or for subsequent re-approval. An individual will have to meet the number of points required for each practice as listed in document QE/INF/1.

An individual approved as a Qualified Expert in one area of practice and who wishes to become approved in another practice area can use the number of points acquired in the approved practice area towards his application in another practice area. Similarly, an individual applying for multi practice area, will only need the number of points of that practice area that carries the maximum number of CPD points.

| | | | Max per activity | Max per year | Max per 3 years | |
|----------|---|------------|--|--------------|-----------------|----|
| A | Education and Training Courses Completed | i | Attending and passing a formal examined radiation safety course within the last 5 years (per hr) | 2 | 30 | 60 |
| | | ii | Attending a formal radiation safety course within the last 5 years (per hr) | 1 | 15 | 30 |
| | | iii | Attendance at a radiation safety workshop within the last 5 years. (per hour) | 1 | 15 | 30 |
| | | iv | Following tertiary level education in relevant radiation protection subject within the last 5 years (per month) | 1 | 10 | 30 |
| | | v | Attendance at Management related course within the last 3 years (per week) | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| B | Attendance at Conferences / Seminars / Meetings | i | Attendance in international, national meetings of recognised institutions (per hour) | 1 | 20 | 50 |
| | | ii | Lecturing as an invited or keynote speaker (per 1/2 hour) | 1 | 5 | 15 |
| | | iii | Delivering an RP related presentation (per 1/2 hour) | 1 | 5 | 15 |
| | | iv | Attendance at RP related committee meeting (per hour) | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| | | v | Attendance at Management related conference, seminar or symposium within the last 3 years (per activity) | 1 | 3 | 10 |
| C | Technical or Scientific Publications and or Papers | i | Article in a professional review (per article) | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| | | ii | Article in a non-professional review/magazine/newspaper (per article) | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| | | iii | Paper for government or national advisory body (per paper submitted) | 4 | 4 | 12 |
| D | Technical and Professional Service | i | Membership of radiation related body, committee, working group or official sub-committees (per year) | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| | | ii | Membership of scientific or management committee of other professional, governmental or international bodies | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| E | Self Development | i | Work on non RP related self development that is felt to be relevant to CPD which is not covered in other categories (per submission) | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| | | ii | Structured private study in Training skills, computer skills, public speaking and communication skills (per 2hours) | 1 | 20 | 60 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------|---|------------|--|----|----|----|
| F | Training; Health and Safety Strategies | i | Development of Radiation safety strategy or policy that is implemented in an organisation (per submission) | 10 | 30 | 40 |
| | | ii | Development of Radiation Safety Course (per hour) | 1 | | 20 |
| | | iii | RP related lecturing and/or examiner (per 2 hours) | 2 | 20 | 60 |
| | | iv | Other Health and Safety lecturing (per 2 hours) | 1 | 15 | 30 |

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|------------|---|----|----|----|
| G | Other Activities | i | Proven provision of radiological advice (per hour) | 1 | 10 | 20 |
| | | ii | Assessing RP related emergency exercises (Initial per employer) | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| | | iii | Assessing RP related emergency exercises (subsequent) | 2 | | 20 |
| | | iv | Performing other emergency exercises | 1 | | 15 |
| | | v | Performing RP Risk Assessment (Initial, per practice area) | 5 | 10 | 20 |
| | | vi | Performing RP Risk Assessment (subsequent) | 2 | | 10 |
| | | vii | Direct responsibility of Radiation Protection at a facility | 10 | 10 | 30 |