Scottish Qualifications Authority

The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations

Dangerous Goods Driver Training

Statistical Report as at 30 June 2007

1. Introduction

This report provides information and statistics on

- Module pass rates
- Marking deadlines
- Delegates Attending Training
- Vocational Training Certificates Awarded
- Approved Training Providers
- Verification and Invigilation Visits

2. Module Pass Rates

The table below shows the candidates sitting the modules and the passes.

Individual Module Pass Rates			
	Sitting	Passing	% Pass
Core	13557	13227	97.57
Tank	6503	6395	98.34
Packages	12654	12053	95.25
Class 1	3350	3222	96.18
Class 2	6723	6356	94.54
Class 3	7555	7101	93.99
Class 4	4208	3980	94.58
Class 5	4417	4090	92.60
Class 6	4988	4846	97.15
Class 7	423	418	98.82
Class 8	4521	4357	96.37
Class 9	4793	4612	96.22
Common Characteristics	4345	4219	97.10
Group A (Classes 2, 3, 6 and 8)	4486	4055	90.39
Group B (Classes 4, 5 and 9)	3526	3264	92.57
Global	**86049**	**82195**	**95.52**

3. Marking Deadlines

Average Number of Working Days to Process Course Materials from Receipt

October 2006 – 13
November 2006 – 11
December 2006 – 13
January 2007 - 14
February 2007 - 13
March 2007 - 6
April 2007 - 3
May 2007 - 2
June 2007 - 3

4. Candidates Attending Training

	Initial Training				Refresher Training			
	Licence Type				Licence Type			
	GB	NI	Non-UK	Monthly Total	GB	NI	Non-UK	Monthly Total
Oct-06	1678	77	17	1772	127	13	0	140
Nov-06	2066	59	14	2139	151	2	1	154
Dec-06	1602	39	7	1648	80	0	0	80
Jan-07	1794	80	24	1898	179	9	0	188
Feb-07	1792	67	15	1874	201	0	0	201
Mar-07	2007	37	22	2066	238	10	1	249
Apr-07	1239	54	26	1319	144	12	0	156
May-07	1285	48	33	1366	179	9	1	189
Jun-07	1427	55	16	1498	200	12	0	212
Total	**14890**	**516**	**174**	**15580**	**1499**	**67**	**3**	**1569**

Non-UK Drivers

Of the non-UK licence holders sitting the training 37% are American, 20% are from the Republic of Ireland and 6% are Polish.

Other nationalities represented include; Denmark, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico and Slovakia.

5. Vocational Training Certificates Awarded

The table below shows the Vocational Training Certificates awarded on a month by month basis and Totals

	Licence Type			VTC Type		
	GB	**NI**	**Non-UK**	**Initial**	**Refresher**	**Additional**
Oct-06	1700	80	13	1382	206	205
Nov-06	1938	50	15	1549	234	220
Dec-06	1446	34	6	1125	136	225
Jan-07	1791	78	23	1381	246	265
Feb-07	1797	66	12	1299	275	301
Mar-07	1995	43	21	1437	324	298
Apr-07	1171	61	21	877	182	194
May-07	1270	44	26	949	228	163
Jun-07	1009	33	4	704	210	132
Total	**14117**	**489**	**141**	**10703**	**2041**	**2003**

6. Approved Training Providers

65 – Independent Training Providers
63 – National Dangerous Goods Training Consortium
Ministry of Defence

7. Verification & Invigilation Visits

The below table provides details of the Verification and Invigilation activity conducted to date.

	Verification Visits					Invigilation Visits				
	1	2	3	4	Total	1	2	3	4	Total
Oct-06	20	7	5	0	32	6	0	0	0	6
Nov-06	3	4	2	0	9	8	4	1	0	13
Dec-06	5	4	4	0	13	8	1	0	0	9
Jan-07	8	9	1	0	18	14	4	1	0	19
Feb-07	4	5	7	0	16	13	1	1	0	15
Mar-07	8	4	1	0	13	9	4	0	0	13
Apr-07	5	6	1	1	13	8	1	1	1	11
May-07	3	8	0	0	11	12	5	0	0	17
Jun-07	10	5	0	0	15	26	5	0	0	31
Totals	**67**	**54**	**24**	**5**	**140**	**105**	**27**	**7**	**5**	**144**

Of the Verification visits that have taken place 86% have resulted in a Grade 1 or Grade 2, which demonstrates the generally high standard of training that is conducted within Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Of the Invigilation visits 92% resulted in a Grade 1 or a Grade 2 which shows the high level of compliance to SQA examination procedures by centres.

At the start of the contract verification activity was highest as SQA sought to establish a presence with Training Providers and keen to gauge the standard of training and the issues associated with it. Since that first month verification activity as established a pattern of around 15 visits a month, of both type being conducted to ensure the quality of practice around the country.

Annexe A – Communication to Training Providers Regarding Online Examinations May 2007

Background

Since being appointed to administer the Dangerous Goods Driver Training examinations from October 2006, SQA has expressed their intention to move towards an on-line examination system from the second year of our tenure. The purpose of this communication is to provide a progress update and explain our approach to implementation, likely timescales and give you time to prepare. We will provide further information in stages as and when necessary.

Update on Progress

An outline system was approved by Department for Transport in December 2006 with authority received to progress building and implementing the software. SQA has been working on such a system since January 2007 and the software is nearing completion prior to final user and acceptance testing prior to launch.

The Online Assessment System will initially be on a voluntary basis, with the paper based system of examinations continue for those Providers still wishing to examine by that method. Following a review of the question bank in March and April a new set of question papers will be printed and distributed to Providers for use in the examinations. We hope to have these available by September 2007.

The current scheduled live date of the online examinations is 01 November 2007.

Piloting of the System

Prior to this live date SQA's proposal is to pilot the system in a live classroom environment from 01 August 2007. The purpose of the pilot is to fully test the capability's and practicality of the system in the most realistic conditions. For this we would be looking for Training Providers willing to use the system to deliver the examinations to their customers. SQA would choose a limited audience initially and depending on the success this pilot would be extended to a wider audience.

One of the major benefits of the system is the ability to get results to Training Providers within 24 hours of an examination sat and the VTC issued to the driver quicker. There would be training and support given to those Providers wishing to participate in the pilot.

SQA will use this pilot to monitor system and candidate performance, with the data used to judge the success of the pilot prior to going live. SQA would withdraw the system if there was deemed to be any major faults the required rectifying, which may have an effect on the go live date.

If any Training Provider wishes to be considered for the online assessment pilot I would be grateful if they could put this in writing to me by **Friday 15 June 2007,** providing a brief outline of their current facility and system set up.

Minimum Requirements

The examinations will be fully online; all data will be held by our servers and communicated the client machines. There is no requirement for Training Providers to have their own servers or download any software.

The hardware requirements to run the system we expect to be inline with Microsoft's minimum to run Internet Explorer (486 processor, 16M memory 120M disk VGA)

The recommended client spec would therefore be;

Pentium or equivalent >=1GHz
256M memory
1G disk
XGA Graphics (1024x768)
Win2k or XP fully patched
IE6SP1 or IE7 fully patched

As the examinations are fully online a high speed broadband connection would be highly recommended to ensure speed of access.

Visit to Premises

SQA staff may be required to visit Training Providers premises prior to commencement of the pilot to ensure suitability. We are currently considering if there would be any requirement for providers to have a separate approval to run on-line examinations based on premises and system set-up, This will be confirmed closer to the live date.

If any Training Provider wishes to be considered for the online assessment pilot I would be grateful if they could put this in writing to me, providing a brief outline of their current facility and system set up.

Annexe B – Summary of amendments to the Manual of Practice

Changes to the 1st Edition (November 2006) of the Manual of Practice.

Standard Changes

- Any references of '2004' to '2007'.
- Any reference to 'DVLNI' to 'DVA'.
- Any reference to 'EV' to 'Verification Officer'.
- Any reference to 'Annex' changed to 'Appendix'.
- Any reference to 'him/his etc' changed to 'their/them'.
- Any reference to 'Firearms and Explosives branch of the NIO' changed to HSENI
- Any reference to 'Head of Police Division' changed to'Chief Executive'

Section	Change
Front page	SQA logo
Foreward	Syllabus available as a separate document and not part of the manual of practice
2.5	Removal of bullet points 3-6 and replaced with 1 bullet point
2.6	Removal of 3.5 tonnes sentence
3.1	Removal of SQA retaining a paper system as all systems now through the web-based management system
3.2	System requirements all changed
4.7.4	'*Course members'* changed to '*candidates in a classroom'*
4.7.9	Removal of '*all of the hazard*'
4.12.1	Whole paragraph
4.12.2	Whole paragraph
4.12.3	Added '***4.12.3 Approval to conduct courses in Northern Ireland (GB providers)*** *If an approved Training Provider in Great Britain wishes to have approval to conduct training in Northern Ireland they must seek approval from HSENI via SQA first, prior to notifying a course.'*
7.5	Removal of '*normally*' and '*it may be longer*, but'
7.7	Change of '*should*' to '*must*'
8.4	Final sentence changed to read '*Again this must produce an image that is clear, sharp, undistorted, visible and audible to all candidates with a minimum screen size of 50cms/20 inches.*'
8.4	Removal of '*Generally*'.
8.5	Change of '*may only be undertaken with the prior approval of Scottish Qualifications Authority*' to '*Are not to be undertaken*'
8.10	Removal of '*compliant with EN 471*'
8.10	Change of '*Chemical resistant calf length boots, with the appropriate protection for the whole foot*' to '*Suitable protective footwear*'
8.11	Inclusion of two Class 7 recommendations
8.12	Removal of '*SI Number 2003 1867 The Radioactive Material (Road Transport) Regulations 2003 (but only if the provider is conducting the Class 7 specialism)*
8.12	Removal of '*(HAZCHEM List)*
8.12	Removal of '*approved Vehicle Requirements and Approved Tanker Requirements if the provider is conducting the Tanker module.*'
8.12	Change of '*ISBN 0-7176-2197-9*' to '*current edition*'
9.1	Removal of '*On completion of training, drivers need to retain their knowledge for a period of up to 5 years*'

Section	Change
10.2	Change of '*Notification to Scottish Qualifications Authority will be automatically sent on submission of an instructor for approval'* to *'Once all the material has been uploaded onto the database the provider must notify the SQA ADR Administrator of the request for approval'*
10.3	Added *'An Instructor may be removed from the list if, during a course, they impart incorrect or misleading information to candidates which may affect their performance during the examinations.'*
10.5	3 bullets points changed to 10.5.1, 10.5.2 and 10.5.3
10.8	Change of '*from the Chief Verification Officer. (See also Annex A')* to '*at appendix A.'*
10.9	change of 10.5 to 10.5.2
10.12	Employment status section removed
10.13	Production of VTC changed to section 10.12
11.6	Removal of '*This is an interim measure only and training providers must use the database for all course and examination administration by early 2007.'*
12.3	Added *'The Verification officer will make an assessment of the Instructor performance during the visit and will make a recommendation for their continuation on the Providers approved list (see Section 10.3).'*
13.1	Removal of '*training providers own reference'* and '*the examination paper series to be used'*
13.2	Change of contact number to 0845 213 5281
14.3.3	Inclusion on '*and a form of photo ID, reputable company or professional body photo identification may be used.'* after the section on the valid (old style) driving licence.
14.3.4	*'in alphabetical and examination paper order'* replace with '*module then alphabetical by surname'*
14.3.4	Added '*SQA cannot be held responsible for the loss of examination material sent by normal mail services*'
14.3.5	Deleted '*of the VTC award for…and their'* replace by '*From the course record the training provider will be able to print a report of the examination results via the 'Results Matrix' tab. This will provide notification each candidates module results*.
14.4	Bullet point 5 changed 5 feet to 1.5 metres Bullet point 5, new paragraph to set out arrangements in the examination hall to accommodate candidates sitting papers of different lengths.
14.5	New bullet point 2 added following text *Ensure that the seating in the examination room is arranged in such a way that there is no possibility of collusion or interference. Ideally candidates should be at single desks with 1.5 metres between heads. The invigilator must be able to see all of the candidates at all times during the examinations.*
14.11.1	Insertion of *'for examinations only'* in last sentence.
15.3	Change of '*signed*' to '*written'*
15.3	Change of '*Should be made at the latest'* to '*must be made'*
Appendix A	Updated to show correct contact details
Appendix D	Updated course programme 1 to reflect use of Common Characteristic papers following the individual class module training Renumbering of course programmes from 31
Appendix E	Examination Queries – removal of '*unless advised to do so'*.
Appendix E	Contact telephone number for SQA changed to 0845 279 1000
Appendix E	Removal of '*Initial and Refresher training'* from route information