

Product Marketing  
SQA  
The Optima Building  
58 Robertson Street  
Glasgow

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To whom it may concern

**SQA Level 3 Diploma in Supervision of Port and Maritime Operations (QCF)  
60165285**

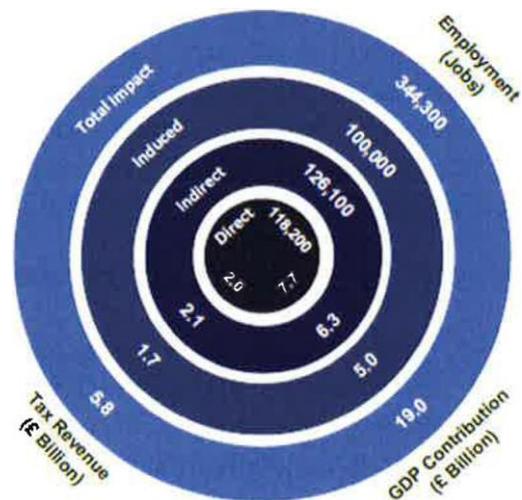
Port Skills and Safety (PSS) is the UK's professional ports health and safety membership organisation. Established in 2002 by the ports industry PSS has over 104 members from across the UK including harbour authorities, port and terminal operators, stevedoring companies and other organisations providing services to the industry. It exists to promote and raise health, safety and skills standards in ports.

PSS provides direction on legal, health and safety and technical information on training a skilled workforce at all levels. This includes information on a wide range of topics from regulatory developments, accident and prevention measures and health and safety advice.

**The UK ports sector's overall economic impact<sup>1</sup>**

*Direct contribution to employment in 2013:* the ports sector is estimated to employ 118,200. Of these, 43% worked in either transport or a transport-related activity, with a further 18% employed in cargo handling. The workers in the sector are highly productive. The sector's labour productivity (measured as gross value added divided by employment) is £65,400 per worker. This is 1.3 times the UK economy's average.

*Direct contribution to GOP:* the ports sector made a £7.7 billion value-added contribution to UK GOP. The value added it creates is greater than plastic products manufacture and repair of motor vehicles industries and nearly as large as the UK's advertising industry.



<sup>1</sup> source "The economic impact of the UK Maritime Services Sector: Ports" Oxford Economics May 2015

*Direct contribution to UK Exchequer:* the ports sector pays £2.0 billion in taxes, through a combination of corporation, labour and other indirect taxes such as VAT and council tax. Nearly two thirds (63%) of this revenue was generated through employee related income tax and National Insurance Contributions (NICs).

*Significant investment:* is under way in the UK ports, particularly with the increasing need to have facilities which cater for biomass as an alternate fuel source for electricity generation and ambient, frozen and chilled products as well as changing logistics and distribution patterns. Figures from UK Trade and Investment indicate an increase of 33% in imported fruit and vegetable over the last 15 years with 74% of fresh produce reaching the UK by container compared to 52% 10 years ago.

## **Value of the Diploma**

I am writing to confirm that Level 3 Diploma in Supervision of Port and Maritime Operations is important to our members and the sector providing occupational competence for those operating in the port environment. The knowledge and skills provided by this qualification are critical to those working in ports of all sizes and traffic, from cargo to passengers.

The qualification provides progression for those completing the level 2 Port Operations as well as supporting entry at this level and providing a structured learning programme for those existing employees looking to develop their skills and knowledge. Employees who hold this qualification are valued by our members as having the skills and knowledge to carry out their roles competently.

This level 3 qualification enhances the following skills showing that employees are able to carry out their work safely and securely whilst complying with the relevant health, safety, security and environmental regulations. They will also develop competence in working with others to ensure the port operates effectively and ensuring the equipment used is operated within the relevant guidelines. They will also need to demonstrate they can supervise the loading and discharge of vessels or cargo ships safely and securely whilst maintaining their own safety and that of others. For those employees working in passenger terminals they will need to demonstrate working with and supervising others to ensure passengers pass through the terminal safely.

The level 3 diploma can lead to the following job roles within the port and maritime industry:

- General Supervisor- is responsible for ensuring the work of teams is carried out safely and to the requirements of the port. They may be responsible for the loading and unloading of cargo, the operation of harbour craft, safety and liaising with port and other customers.
- Passenger Supervisor – liaises with freight customers, shipping agents, passengers, HM Customs, Immigration and Harbour Authority as well as supervising the team working in the passenger terminal to ensure the work is carried out safely and to the requirements of the port and its customers.
- Stevedoring Supervisor- is responsible for teams of port operatives working on loading or unloading of cargo ships, briefing them on their work, ensuring they

operate equipment and machinery safely as well as dealing with problems as they arise.

- Marine Supervisor- supervises the operation of harbour craft and ensuring the port teams are working safely and the areas is safe to work in.

This qualification has benefitted employees in our industry by facilitating their professional development as well as providing progression from the level 2 in Port Operations. Individuals have been able to build on their expertise and progress into specialised or management roles through a recognised qualification. In turn this has also been beneficial to our member organisations who are able to retain staff and promote them into more senior management roles ensuring their skills and knowledge facilitate the development of the organisation.

We confirm that we consent to SQA publishing our company name and logo on their website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Steele', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Steele  
Director  
Port Skills and Safety