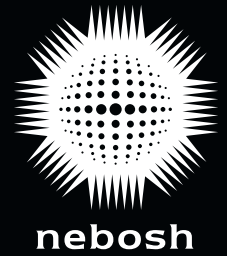


NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report



July – September 2022



NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Welcome to NEBOSH's Ethical Practice Report which publishes information about our approach to ethical practice and the outcomes of our activities in July - September 2022.

These quarterly reports outline our proactive approach to detecting and investigating malpractice, and the outcomes of our activities.

Cheats do not have a place in the health and safety profession.

At a glance: July – September 2022

1,484 investigations concluded



1,398
learners
identified as engaged
in malpractice

2,069
penalties



2 LIFETIME
BANS

671
BANS

114
cases of fraudulent
activity on social
media removed

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Investigations

NEBOSH employs a team of Ethical Practice experts who review assessments, collect evidence and conduct thorough investigations into potential malpractice incidents. Some investigations are more complex than others and may take many months of work whilst we use a range of tools and techniques to gather evidence. Where it has been found that malpractice has taken place, we apply appropriate penalties to any person or organisation involved.

During July - September 2022 we completed 1,484 investigations and opened 1,573 new investigations.

Penalties and sanctions

The penalties will depend on the severity of the offence and the strength of the evidence collected during the investigation process. Sanctions can range from results being voided to lifetime bans. The number of penalties is greater than the number of learners punished, as one learner can receive multiple penalties. For example, if a learner has two units voided and receives a ban, that equates to three penalties.

Our completed investigations resulted in 2,069 penalties being issued to 1,398 learners in this reporting period. They included:

- 2 lifetime bans
- 3 five-year bans
- 230 three-year bans
- 170 two-year bans
- 266 one-year bans

Automated plagiarism checking tools assist NEBOSH's investigations and help to pinpoint cases where learners have colluded on their answers, purchased answers from a third-party source which they have tried to submit as their own, or plagiarised external materials.

Just under 100 Diploma learners were sanctioned for copying excessive amounts of text from published sources, to the extent that some learners had included whole answers that were comprised of plagiarised text. This is a clear breach of NEBOSH's Malpractice Policy.

Software is also used in our online multiple choice assessments. Remote proctoring helps to protect the integrity of the exam and checks for things such as identification, that the learner is not using other windows/websites for information and that the learner is alone completing their assessment.

45 learners sitting the PSM1 multiple choice assessments for the NEBOSH HSE Certificate in Process Safety Management were given warnings or had units voided for breaching exam conditions. This was found by our proctoring software and confirmed on review by our Ethical Practice team.

Information about the online multiple choice assessments are included within the learner guide on the NEBOSH website and in a video on our Youtube account: <https://youtu.be/NNmruXnTbEc>

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The expertise of NEBOSH's Ethical Practice team and the know-how of our Learning Partners and Examiners also help us to catch people engaged in malpractice. A combination of their expert human analysis as well as specialist software is often used during investigations and to build a strong case where malpractice has been committed.

Twenty learners had their results voided and received bans for plagiarism. They had all used similar answers but used paraphrasing in an attempt to avoid being identified by Turnitin software.

An Examiner reported irregularities in a Diploma learner's assessment. On analysis we found that the learner had inserted hidden characters in their work to try to disguise plagiarism from our detection software. Their assessment was voided and they received a lifetime ban.

Upholding high standards in our Learning Partners

Our network of accredited Learning Partners help us to uphold the high standards we expect from our learners, for example in post-assessment professional discussions and closing interviews. In this reporting period, Learning Partners reported 192 suspected cases of malpractice to NEBOSH for further investigation.

NEBOSH's Learning Partners are also rigorously accredited and monitored; recent monitoring activities focussed on those organisations which worked with unapproved third-party agents, thereby attempting to circumvent NEBOSH's quality processes. Through a combination of mystery shopping and other intelligence gathering methods, issues were identified that resulted in six Learning Partners being given notice of termination of their accreditation.

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Removing fraudulent online content

Our in-house experts monitor websites, blogs and social media daily to identify any content that could jeopardise NEBOSH's reputation or the integrity of our qualifications. This includes content that:

- Falsely promotes an association with NEBOSH
- Sells fake NEBOSH certificates
- Sells training from an unaccredited organisation
- Helps learners to answer a live assessment
- Sells or distributes pre-written answers

We work with specialist solicitors and social media platforms to contact content owners/publishers and have this type of content removed.

From July - September 2022 we worked to remove 114 social media posts. Our work also resulted in 23 cases of websites or website content being taken down.

The intelligence from our IPR work also informs malpractice investigations; we are able to find learners who have engaged with these channels and potentially cheated in their assessments.

Website misrepresenting an association with NEBOSH

In one case, an unaccredited organisation was falsely promoting an association with NEBOSH; embedding the NEBOSH name and qualifications within meta tags on its website, therefore generating website traffic under the pretence of providing NEBOSH courses. The website has since been amended to remove mention of NEBOSH.

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NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Reporting

Malpractice concerns

If you have any evidence about possible malpractice, please report it to us at postassessment@nebosh.org.uk.

Together we can stamp out malpractice and protect the integrity of the health and safety profession.

We review every piece of information and intelligence that is sent to us however, for privacy reasons, we cannot provide an update on individual cases or investigations to you.

Fraudulent online content

We have dedicated Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) experts and lawyers who find and remove fraudulent activity such as fake certificates, assessment writing services, guarantees of 100% pass rates or claiming to have access to NEBOSH's systems to change grades. Although it only takes minutes to post something online it can take days or weeks for NEBOSH to have it removed by the relevant platform. If you see a fraudulent social media post or website you can help by:

- Reporting it to us at ipr@nebosh.org.uk; and
- Reporting posts to the relevant social media platform.

Our free verification service

You can verify any NEBOSH qualification and we highly recommend that employers use our verification services in the recruitment of potential health and safety employees. NEBOSH has two free services that are available:

- If you have a certificate, you can use our online platform to check the authenticity of any NEBOSH qualification: <https://www.nebosh.org.uk/online-verifications>.
- To validate the information on a results document please contact NEBOSH via our Verification Request Form <https://www.nebosh.org.uk/policies-and-procedures/verifications/>.

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NEBOSH, the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health,
is a world leading provider of health, safety, environmental and wellbeing qualifications.

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