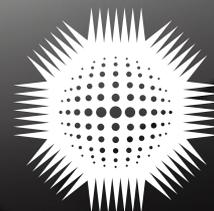


NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

April – June 2024



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NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

NEBOSH's Ethical Practice Report publishes information about our approach to ethical practice and the outcomes of our activities from April - June 2024.

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: April – June 2024



NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

Investigations

NEBOSH employs a team of Ethical Practice experts who review assessments, collect evidence and conduct thorough investigations into potential incidents of malpractice. 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 April - June 2024 we completed 1,228 investigations.

Mystery shopping

NEBOSH has a programme of 'mystery shopping' in which we buy assessment answers that are being offered for sale online. We then compare the assessments with all the learners' submissions for that sitting. In one case, we purchased answers for a diploma assessment, which was later found to be a high match to a learner's actual submission. The learner's result was declared void, and they received a five-year ban.

Penalties and sanctions

Penalties depend on the severity of the offence and the strength of the evidence collected during the investigation; they can range from voided results 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 1,508 penalties being issued to 1,164 learners in this reporting period. They included:

- 19 lifetime bans
- 3 five-year bans
- 110 three-year bans
- 57 two-year bans
- 155 one-year bans

In addition, six Learning Partners had their accreditation removed for reasons including financial conduct, working with unapproved organisations, and copyright breaches.

In one case, a Learning Partner reported a learner to NEBOSH for using notes to help them answer questions in a closing interview (this is not permitted).

When NEBOSH reviewed the learner's assessment we found that their work contained hidden characters between each of the words in an attempt to avoid NEBOSH's anti-plagiarism software. The learner's result was declared void and they received a lifetime ban from NEBOSH assessments.

NEBOSH has since worked with our technology suppliers so that we can better detect this type of malpractice. Any learners using hidden characters to disguise plagiarised content will face severe sanctions.

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

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 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.

In the quarter we:

- Removed 1,770 social media posts and pages
- Removed content from and/or had a site suspended on eight fraudulent certificate websites

Examples of content we have removed



Saqib Khan · 3rd+
certified Safety officer

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You can help

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.

NEBOSH was contacted by an informant who claimed to have written the IG1 assessment for a learner. The informant supplied a copy of the assessment and messages exchanged between the parties. NEBOSH identified the learner, and following an investigation, their result was declared void, and they received a lifetime ban from NEBOSH assessments.

Remember, if you use a contract cheating service, you are under the power of that service, which may inform others about you or ask for more money at a later date.

Fraudulent online content

NEBOSH's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) experts and lawyers find and remove fraudulent activity such as fake certificates, assessment writing services, guarantees of 100% pass rates, or claims 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.

Private chat groups

It only takes a moment for someone to set up a private chat or group, such as on WhatsApp. Unfortunately, these are hard to detect and report; they are usually accessed by personal phone numbers/accounts and can be invite-only groups. You can help by reporting these groups using in-platform reporting features. You can also share member details with NEBOSH using the details above (we require details such as names, phone numbers and images of conversations to investigate thoroughly).

Certificate safety

As with many qualifications, there are organisations that will try to make money by selling counterfeit certificates to individuals who have not completed the required training.

As a learner, we strongly recommend that you keep your certificate details safe and only allow trusted organisations to access these documents.

As an employer, we strongly recommend that you always verify the credentials of prospective employees.

NEBOSH has a free online verification service for learners and employers of health and safety professionals to verify the authenticity of a qualification; we recommend that learners encourage their employer or future employer to use this service to raise awareness and help remove fake certificates from circulation.

More information about our verifications service is available on our website; visit: <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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