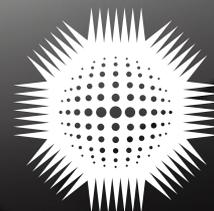


NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

July – September 2024



nebosh

NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

NEBOSH's Ethical Practice Report publishes information about our approach to ethical practice and the outcomes of our activities from July - September 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: July – September 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 July - September 2024 we completed 1,209 investigations.

NEBOSH uses remote proctoring technology to check that learners comply with assessment rules in our Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQ) assessments. While reviewing the recordings of one MCQ sitting, we identified that a learner was using a pre-prepared set of answers to assist them. The learner's result was declared void, and they received a three-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 1,510 penalties being issued to 1,128 learners in this reporting period. They included:

- 4 lifetime bans
- 8 five-year bans
- 134 three-year bans
- 95 two-year bans
- 141 one-year bans

In addition, three Learning Partners had their accreditation removed for reasons including failing to have suitable tutors and course materials, failing to rectify issues identified in an audit and for accepting a learner from an unapproved organisation during a mystery shopping exercise.

Don't even think about it!

An Examiner reported that a learner had asked them to write their IG1 OBE assessment for them. Of course, the examiner refused and reported this to NEBOSH. This type of behaviour facilitates cheating and undermines the integrity of the assessment. The learner's IG1 result was declared void, and they received a ban from future assessments.

This example also highlights the invaluable role our Examiners play in protecting the integrity of our assessments. Even though we cannot provide individual responses, we review all reports of suspected malpractice from Examiners, and we hugely appreciate our Examiners' efforts.

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.

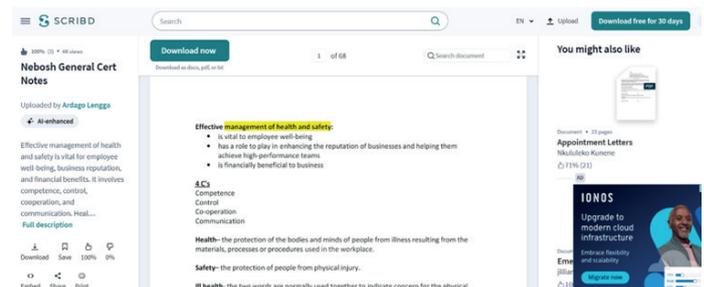
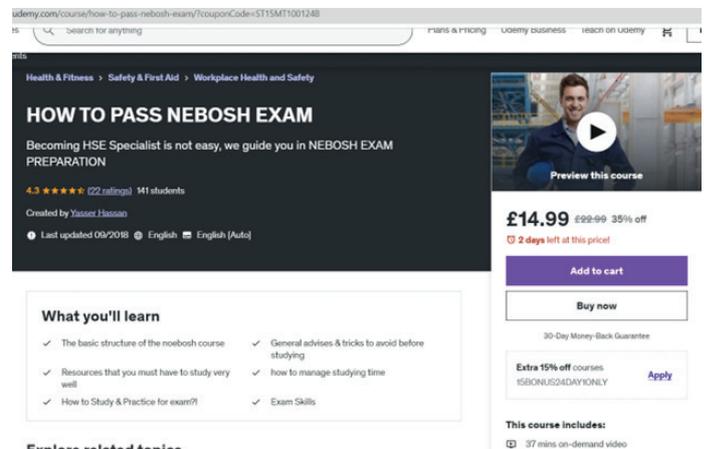
In the quarter we:

- Removed 2,309 social media posts and pages
- Removed content from and/or had a website suspended on 102 sites, for misuse of the NEBOSH brand
- Reported and closed down 19 fraudulent certificate websites.



Taking down courses from unapproved providers

During the quarter, we focused particularly on websites that sold revision courses from unapproved providers at a cost or for a subscription. We removed 19 such courses from Udemy and 320 from Scribd. Learners should only study with a NEBOSH-accredited Learning Partner; any other courses or materials are not quality-checked or approved.



NEBOSH Ethical Practice Report

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 sent to us, however, for privacy reasons, we cannot provide an update on individual cases or investigations to you.

Whilst monitoring social media channels, a member of the NEBOSH Ethical Practice team found adverts from an individual who claimed to have written and submitted IG1 assessments on behalf of two learners.

The individual also shared redacted screenshots of the learners' 'successful submission'. By analysing the screenshots, we were able to identify the learners; their IG1 results were declared void, and they were permanently banned from sitting NEBOSH assessments in the future.

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.

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/>.

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.

We have produce guides to help both learners and employers. You can read them here: <https://www.nebosh.org.uk/nebosh-verifications/guidance/>

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NEBOSH, the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health,
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