



nebosh

**NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health
and Safety (October 2018 specification)**

**FAQs for Learning Partners
(v3)**

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What's changed and why?

Why has the syllabus been updated?

NEBOSH has reviewed the syllabus in line with the normal qualification development cycle. The syllabus content, following extensive research, has been updated to provide learners with the knowledge, skills and understanding required in the modern workplace.

We developed the syllabus following wide consultation with key stakeholders, including Learning Partners, employers, Trade Unions, standard setting organisations, past and present learners.

What are the timeframes?

The qualification will be officially launched 30 September 2019 and you can book assessments from this date. You can start teaching the revised qualification from 5 September and learners will be assessed from 11 November 2019. The transitional timeframes are given in the table below.

Launch date of new NG (October 2018 specification). Assessments can also be booked from this date.	30 September 2019
First assessments for October 2018 specification from	11 November 2019
Last date that new learners can be registered to the November 2014 specification	29 February 2020
New learner registrations to October 2018 specification only from	1 March 2020
November 2014 specifications – registrations for existing learners only from	1 March 2020
Last assessment date for the November 2014 specification	31 March 2022

How does NEBOSH define a 'new learner' and 'existing learner'?

A '**new learner**' is a person that has not been registered* for an assessment of the November 2014 specification ie they do not have a record in the NEBOSH systems against the NGC November 2014 specification.

An '**existing learner**' is a person that has been registered* for an assessment of the November 2014 specification. The status against the learner will show as 'studying', 'absent', 'Pass' or 'Refer'.



* Registered means that a registration has been made in the Course Provider Interface and that the appropriate fee has been paid.

Why have the transitional dates changed?

We initially told you that the date for stopping new learner registrations to the November 2014 specification was going to be 31 October 2020.

In good faith, we had assumed, based on all our previous experience that we would be allowed the longer transitional time. But, there are small (but significant) technical differences between what we have done before (common assessments, transferring learners to the new specification) and what we will be doing in this case (dual running of separate assessments for old and new specifications and no transfers). As a result, different rules apply.

What are the differences between the November 2014 and October 2018 specifications?

The biggest changes to the specifications are:

- New style syllabus guide that has been designed specifically for you;
- The syllabus wording is easier to understand, more direct and less formal;
- We have separated the assessment criteria from the learning outcomes;
- We clearly set out what will be assessed by examination and by the practical;
- Reduction of 20 hours overall (see below table);
- There will no longer be any shared units between the NG and IG. Each qualification will be standalone;
- The content from the previous thirteen elements of Units NGC1 and GC2 has now been combined into eleven elements.

As the structure of the qualification has changed, there has been a change in the hours. The total qualification hours have decreased by 20. The November 2014 specification has a total qualification hours of 133.

A break-down of the recommended taught, self-study and assessment hours is given in the following table:

	Taught hours	Self-study hours	Assessment time	Total
Unit NG1	29	20	2	51
Unit NG2	39	20	3	62
Qualification	68	40	5	113

How long can learners take to complete the qualification?

Learners will have five years to complete their qualification.



Has the grading structure for the qualification changed?

The grading has changed. A 'Pass' must be achieved in both units to achieve the National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety.

Unit NG1: 45 marks

Unit NG2: Pass or Refer

The qualification grade is based on the result from the Unit NG1 examination. Learners need to achieve a pass in both units (Units NG1 and NG2) before a parchment can be issued. Weighting will no longer be applied to results. The qualification grading boundaries are as follows:

Distinction: 75 marks or higher

Credit: 65 – 74 marks

Pass: 45 – 64 marks

Has the assessment structure of the 2018 specification changed?

Yes - there will only be one examination instead of two. The examination will only assess learning from elements 1-4. The questions will be written in a clear, accessible style with a 'plain English' check. There will be a risk assessment that will be marked by NEBOSH. It draws on the common workplace hazard topics in elements 5-11, as well as the process of risk assessment in element 3.

When is the first date that my learners will be allowed to sit the October 2018 specification?

The official launch date of the new specification is the 30 September 2019. For other key dates please refer to the table on page 1.

Do I still need to set up the NG2 within 10 working days of the written examination (NG1)?

No – We have listened to requests from Learning Partners and have separated the assessments so that you can now request the NG2 (practical assessment) for a date of your choice as it is no longer dependant on the written examination.

Are qualifications gained under previous specifications of the NGC still valid?

All qualifications gained under former specifications of the National General Certificates are still valid; there are no expiry dates for NEBOSH qualifications.



Transitional arrangements

Can learners already registered to sit certificate exams (2014 specification) be transferred to the new specification?

We will not be transferring learners between the old and new qualifications. Your learners will therefore remain on the November 2014 specification and can continue to sit assessments until the deadline date set out in the key date's table on page 1.

How long am I able to register new learners to the November 2014 specification?

New learners for the November 2014 specification will be accepted until 31 October 2020. New learner registrations after this date must be to the revised October 2018 specification. For further details please see the table on page 1.

Can learners that have already achieved one unit from the National General Certificate (November 2014 specification) still complete the qualification under the November 2014 specification?

Yes – your learners will have until 31 March 2022 to complete their NGC qualification. If they have not completed their qualification by this time, they will need to take both units of the revised October 2018 specification if they still want to obtain the NGC qualification.

Can learners take the 2018 specification assessments instead of the 2014 assessments?

Yes – but **only** if learners have **not** already registered for an NGC assessment (November 2014 specification). If they have they will not be able to transfer to the new specification. Learners that have started their studies but have not been registered for an assessment can choose to take the assessments for the revised qualification. You may need to supply additional support to these learners to ensure that they have covered the whole syllabus for the October 2018 specification.

Can learners transfer unit passes over from the November 2014 to the October 2018 specification?

No - we will not be transferring learners between the old and new qualifications. Please see the key date's table on page 1 for final assessment dates.

Can learners use their successful NG2 unit towards the IGC?

No – In the new NG (October 2018 specification) there will no longer be any shared units between NG and IG. Each qualification will be standalone.

We are exploring the possibility of allowing learners to use Unit NG1 as an exemption against the NGC1 unit of the NCC or NFC qualifications. We will provide an update in the next few months once we have heard from SQA Accreditation (our qualifications regulator).



Learning Partner queries

When should I start to teach the October 2018 specification?

NEBOSH anticipates that teaching will commence from 5 September 2019 which will allow you to register learners for the December 2019 standard examinations. On demand examinations can be held from 11 November 2019.

What's happening with the Construction (NCC) and Fire Certificates (NFC)?

We have started redeveloping the NCC and NFC qualifications. We expect to launch the revised NCC and NFC next year. As with the NG and NGC qualifications, learners will be given a period of time (most likely two years but this is still to be decided) to take any outstanding units that will enable them to complete the qualification for the existing specification.

We expect the redeveloped qualifications to have a similar structure to the new NG qualification - they will be stand-alone qualifications with no shared units.

Do I have to teach the first four elements from the NG qualifications as part of the NCC or NFC qualifications?

No. The NG qualifications are stand-alone qualifications and do not share any units with either the existing or future NCC or NFC qualifications.

Are Units NGC1/IGC1 still part of the current NCC/ICC or NFC/IFC?

Yes they are. The current structure of the qualifications will remain until the redeveloped qualifications are launched. The unit structures of the current qualifications are given below:

NCC	ICC	NFC	IFC
NGC1	IGC1	NGC1	IGC1
NCC1	ICC1	FC1	IFC1
NCC2	ICC2	FC2	FC2

How can NEBOSH still use the NGC1 units in the NCC and NFC when the units are no longer part of the new NG qualification?

When our regulator, SQA Accreditation, accredits qualifications, each unit is separately accredited. Units can be used in more than one qualification, so even if a qualification that uses them is closed, the unit can still be used elsewhere until its accreditation validity expires.



Will you be issuing a new command word document for the NG?

No. Currently, along with the majority of awarding organisations, we use command words derived from Bloom's Taxonomy. As mentioned in previous communications, the NG question bank has been checked and updated by the Plain English Campaign. In future we will, therefore, be using common 'everyday' language (with its common everyday meaning); therefore, a command word document will no longer be needed. We will, however, be providing worked examples of the new question style.

The existing command word document will be retired as and when the other NEBOSH Certificate level qualifications are revised.



Fees / costs

Are the unit registration fees changing?

There has been a change to the registration fee structure. The fees are:

	Cost
Unit NG1 – Question Paper	£46
Unit NG2 – Practical	£70
Total for 2 units	£116

* Fees taken from the 2019/20 NEBOSH Fees List



Qualification level and recognition

Will the October 2018 specification of the National General Certificate be accredited by SQA?

The NEBOSH National General Certificate is accredited and credit rated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA - www.sqa.org.uk) for delivery across the UK. It is rated within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF - www.scqf.org.uk) at SCQF **Level 6** with **11 SCQF credit points**.

In England the comparable to this is a Vocationally-Related Qualification (VRQ) at level 3 within the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), or an A-Level standard.

Will learners still be eligible for professional membership?

Professional bodies (such as IOSH) will continue to recognise the current specification of the National General Certificate for membership. IOSH have also confirmed that the 2018 specification will also be accepted for Associate or Technical membership.

If you require further information please contact NEBOSH's Customer Experience Team on +44 (0)116 263 4700 or via email at info@nebosh.org.uk.