



Dangerous goods safety information sheet

Training requirements for shotfiring licences

Introduction

This information sheet outlines the training requirements for obtaining or renewing a shotfiring licence in Western Australia.

Background

On 18 May 2010, the Australian Forum of Explosives Regulators (AFER) agreed upon the Resources and Infrastructure Industry Training Package units of competency for blasting (RIIBLA). These units of competency are now the basis for shotfirer training throughout Australia. The RIIBLA units of competency are prepared by Skills DMC, the national Industry Skills Council for the Resources and Infrastructure sectors. It was also agreed that shotfirers should be assessed against these competencies every five years.

RIIBLA competencies

Shotfirer training courses now need to include the following Skills DMC RIIBLA competencies for the relevant shotfiring applications (Table 1). Supporting information for the RIIBLA shotfirer training package is available at www.skillsdmc.com.au

Table 1 Technical fields of competence applicable to blasting

Application	Units of competency
For all surface operations outside of town boundaries	RIIBLA205A – Store, handle and transport explosives RIIBLA301A – Conduct surface shotfiring operations RIIBLA305A – Conduct secondary blasting
For all surface operations inside <i>and</i> outside of town boundaries	RIIBLA205A – Store, handle and transport explosives RIIBLA301A – Conduct surface shotfiring operations RIIBLA305A – Conduct secondary blasting RIIBLA402A – Monitor and control the effects of blasting on the environment
For all underground operations except underground coal operations	RIIBLA205A – Store, handle and transport explosives RIIBLA303A – Conduct underground development shotfiring RIIBLA304A – Conduct underground production shotfiring RIIBLA305A – Conduct secondary blasting
For all underground coal operations	RIIBLA205A – Store, handle and transport explosives RIIBLA302A – Conduct shotfiring operations in underground coal mines RIIBLA305A – Conduct secondary blasting

Implementation

In Western Australia, this new arrangement will be adopted under regulation 14 of the Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007.

Applicants must demonstrate to the Chief Officer that they are competent in the skill-set for which they want to be licensed. This is done by providing a statement of attainment for the relevant units of competency. For example, a shotfirer intending to perform surface blasting outside of town limits must provide a statement of attainment from an RTO for the surface blasting units of competency (RIIBLA205A, RIIBLA301A and RIIBLA305A in Table 1).

Resources Safety will only accept statements of attainment from course providers that are Registered Training Organisations (RTO) accredited for the required units of competency.

Shotfiring licences

Under the new arrangements, all current shotfirers need to be re-assessed against the agreed competencies six months before their licences expire. For practising shotfirers, recognition of prior learning or experience may be considered for some competencies.

New shotfiring licences will have conditions indicating the general types of shotfiring that the applicant will be allowed to conduct. These conditions are as follows:

- all surface operations outside of town boundaries
- all surface operations inside and outside of town boundaries
- all underground operations except underground coal operations
- all underground coal operations.

Note: There will be some variations for applicants seeking licences through mutual recognition.

Shotfiring licences will no longer reference specialty blasting such as down-well perforation blasting. For these activities, shotfirers are expected to have specialist training and equipment, and it is the employer's responsibility to ensure people are properly trained and experienced for this work.

Any questions regarding these requirements should be directed to Resources Safety on (08) 9358 8001 or rsdclientservices@dmp.wa.gov.au

Approval process for training organisations

Training organisations seeking Training Accreditation Council (TAC) or Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) accreditation to deliver the Skills DMC RIIBLA shotfirer training package must apply directly to TAC or ASQA. Accreditation involves an initial audit of the course to ensure it follows the Australian Quality Training Framework principles. Course providers will need to demonstrate that they have the resources and ability to deliver the RIIBLA units of competency. Further information is available at www.tac.wa.gov.au

Courses need to include a suitable theoretical examination and a practical component as part of the assessment package. Trainers require a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and a valid shotfiring licence with at least three years of shotfiring experience.

Course providers accredited by TAC or ASQA to deliver the agreed RIIBLA competencies are listed on the Resources Safety website.