

National Quality Mark Scheme for Land Affected by Contamination (NQMLC)

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Background

“The selection of consultants can be complex because there are large variations in the competency of companies offering contaminated land services, many of whom offer extensive services on the basis of only limited resources or experience. There is no single directory of specialist consultancies nor any unified registration scheme which validates their competence.”

1997 CLR12



English Partnerships Brownfield Conference (March 2008)

established

- national brownfield strategy
- national skills framework
- national brownfield forum



National Brownfield Forum (February 2009)

“The forum's remit is to oversee the implementation of the national brownfield strategy, to improve co-ordination on contaminated land and brownfield policy between Government, devolved Administrations, regulators and practitioners, and to encourage the exchange of best practice and knowledge.”

(House of Lords Hansard 21st April 2009)



The Land Forum (July 2011)

- discuss brownfield issues
- support the development of best practice by regulators, practitioners and problem-owners
- identify key challenges
- seek appropriate resolutions



Land Forum Membership

AGS



HCA



RSC



BLRS



ICE



SAGTA



CIEH



IEMA



SEPA



CIWEM



Land Trust



SOBRA



CL:AIRE



Local Authority

SiLC



CLG



Contaminated Land Regulators

Strategic Forum



DEFRA



NHBC



TCPA



EA



Northern Ireland

UKCG



EIC



Government



UKELA



EPUK



NIEA



Voluntary Land Forums

Geol Soc



NRW



Welsh



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

HBF



RICS



Timeline

January 2014

Land Forum discussion regarding the best way to improve standards in our industry led to establishment of working sub-group.

(sub-group included EA, HBF, local authority, SILC, AGS, SOBRA and SAGTA)

June 2014

Sub-group drafted briefing the Land Forum meeting on 25th June when a resolution was passed to proceed with the scheme development.

October 2014

Sub-group reached agreement on draft eligibility criteria for SQPs to sign off reports and developed a draft declaration.

November 2014

The Land Forum agreed to adopt the National Brownfield Strategy Skills Development Framework as a basis for judging the competence of contaminated land professionals.

December 2014

Sub-group revised documentation for consultation



Timeline

May/June/July 2015

Review of consultation responses and final scheme development

July/August/September 2015

Appointment of administrator

Training and promotion of scheme

October/November 2015

Scheme launch



NQMLC Scheme

The scheme focuses on the competency of the report rather than the person and has been developed to provide visible identification that a particular report has been checked by a Suitably Qualified and experienced Person (SQP).



SQP Role

- SQP is individual, approved and registered by the scheme administrator, who fulfils the ultimate role of sign-off for a report and whose judgement can be relied upon with some degree of finality.
- SQP will ensure that the key aspects of the report have been either checked directly by themselves or by individuals with a requisite level of capability.
- SQP to sign a declaration form to this effect for each report. (declaration form to be incorporated into or attached to the report, which may then bear the National Quality Mark)



SQP eligibility

SQP should be an experienced chartered professional (bound by a professional code of conduct) of sufficient experience to have a good overview of the requirements of the various regulatory regimes and of what is required to effectively assess a site and remediate it to a suitable condition.



SQP eligibility

So 'suitably qualified' can essentially mean someone who:

- has a thorough knowledge of all the relevant legislation and guidance and
- has demonstrable understanding of the relevant issues and their implications.
- has demonstrated substantial, relevant and current experience



Skills Framework Assessment

SQP competence assessment on the basis of the Skills Development Framework (SDF).

The skills framework has 5 levels of capability and it is envisaged that SQPs will need to demonstrate Level 4 or higher in a range of roles, and that they may only be able to delegate individual tasks to persons with a capability of Level 4 or higher in the relevant delegated role.



Skills Framework Assessment of SQP

Existing assessment against the SDF already exists in the form of SiLC, and hence this qualification may enable holders to demonstrate possession of the required level of skills (subject to additional training on the operation of the QMLC scheme).

A proposal to this effect has already been provided by SiLC.

Forthcoming SOBRA accreditation scheme has also been designed using the SDF and will dovetail into the proposed NQMLC scheme.



Thank you

