

## **FACTSHEET ON THE OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE PROFESSIONALS WSQ FRAMEWORK**

The Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA), the Workplace Safety & Health Council (WSHC), supported by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), have jointly developed the Occupational Hygiene (OH) Professionals Singapore Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) Framework. The key purposes of the framework are:

- Drive improvements in the workplace health (WH) management
- Raise WH standards through quality professional development of competent and motivated OH Professionals
- Assist employers, occupiers and other stakeholders in the anticipation, recognition, evaluation and control of OH risks at the workplace.

### **WSQ Specialist Diploma in Occupational Hygiene (OH)**

2 The Specialist Diploma in OH is the only qualification under the WSQ framework targeting to train prospective Occupational Hygiene Officers (OHOs). OHOs are persons who take a holistic and generalist approach in OH management. They are expected to have technical knowledge and essential practical skills in identifying and assessing WH risks.

#### **Target Audience**

3 The target audience of this Specialist Diploma in Occupational Hygiene may include:

- Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) professionals such as WSH Coordinators, Officers, and Auditors
- Occupational Hygiene (OH) professionals such as OH Technicians etc.
- Occupational health professionals such as occupational health nurse and physicians
- Other professionals in OH-related fields such as ergonomics, human factors, occupational psychology, biosafety, noise monitoring and control, acoustics, engineering, analytical chemistry, facility management, or human resources etc., who would like to gain more knowledge and a broad appreciation of the occupational hygiene matters at the workplace

4 The competency units under the qualifications are as follows:

Competency Category	Core Units
Physical Hazards	Monitor Noise and Vibration
	Control Noise and Vibration
Chemical and Biological Hazards	Measure Exposure and Assess the Risks due to Hazardous Substances
	Evaluate Health Effects due to Hazardous Substances
	Manage Hazardous Substances
Human Factors	Evaluate Ergonomic-Related Hazards
Non-Technical Skills	Compose Technical Report
	Interpret Basic Workplace Health Practices
Competency Category	Elective Units- Group 1
Physical Hazards	Assess and Control Thermal Stressors
	Manage Radioactive Materials and Irradiating Apparatus
	Control Hazards in Handling Laser Devices
Chemical and Biological Hazards	Manage Asbestos and Other Fibre Risks
	Manage Skin Exposure Risks
	Assess Confined Space for Safe Entry and Work
	Manage Indoor Air Quality
	Evaluate and Control Biological Hazards
Competency Category	Elective Units- Group 2
Non-Technical Skills	Lead Workplace Communication and Engagement
	Solve Problem and Make Decision at Managerial Level
	Apply Systems Thinking in Problem Solving and Decision Making
	Plan, Prepare for and Deliver Presentations

5 To attain the Specialist Diploma in OH, the trainee must have completed 8 core units and 3 Elective units (2 elective units from Group 1 and 1 elective unit from Group 2).

### Career Progression for OHOs

6 OHOs could progress to obtain higher qualifications (beyond the OH Professionals WSQ Framework) in order to assume the roles of Occupational Hygienists. Occupational Hygienists are persons who possess a degree in science or engineering and have acquired competence in occupational hygiene through special studies or training. At this juncture, the WSH Institute is working on further Occupational Hygiene qualification for this purpose.

7 The aim is to develop 5000 Occupational Hygiene Officers and 250 Occupational Hygienists by the year 2018.