



**NEBOSH Environmental Management Certificate (April 2021
specification)**

**FAQs for Learners
(v5)**

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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, standard setting organisations, as well as past and present learners and the NEBOSH Alumni.

What are the differences between the May 2012 and April 2021 specifications?

The syllabus content has been thoroughly researched and checked, and its content has remained broadly the same as the previous specification. This is because the technical content is still in line with current best environmental management practice. However, the assessments have been changed as follows:

- The previous EC1 structured response examination has been replaced with an open book examination. You will be required to review a real-life scenario and answer a number of theoretical and practical questions on environmental management. This gives you the flexibility to take the examination anywhere in the world, without needing to sit at an examination venue. It also means that you will be applying your learning to true-to-life workplace situations. See '*Has the assessment structure of the 2021 specification changed?*' for more information.
- The previous EC2 risk assessment has been replaced by a more relevant practical assessment, which requires you to assess environmental aspects and impacts in your chosen workplace.

The following table gives a summary of the changes.

EC 2012 specification		EC 2021 specification	
Total hours (taught + self-study)	Assessment Units	Total hours (taught + self-study)	Assessment units
70	EC1 Written examination (2 hours)	67	EMC1 Open book examination (5 hours)
	EC2 Practical assessment (3 hours)		EMC2 Practical Assessment (3 hours)



Other changes include:

- The syllabus wording is easier to understand, more direct and less formal;
- We have separated the assessment criteria from the learning outcomes.

Has the grading structure for the qualification changed?

The grading has changed. A 'Pass' must be achieved in both assessments to achieve the Environmental Management Certificate.

Unit EMC1: Notional pass mark of 45%

Unit EMC2: Pass or Refer

Has the assessment structure of the 2021 specification changed?

Yes - there will be an open book examination instead of a structured response examination. The open book examination will assess learning from across all elements. The tasks will be written in a clear, accessible style in 'plain English'. This assessment should take you around 5 hours to complete. There will be a 24-hour window where you can download the paper, complete your answers and upload your assessment for marking.

Following the examination, you will then need to complete a short closing interview with your Learning Partner. The closing interview does not form part of your examination results, but verifies that you have completed the examination independently, and the work submitted is your own work. You will receive further details on the assessment following your assessment registration.

The second assessment will be a practical assessment, where you will be required to assess the environmental aspects and impacts in your chosen workplace. This draws on the common workplace environmental aspects and impacts learned across the syllabus elements, and how these should be managed in a practical context.

Both assessments will be marked by NEBOSH.



What do the changes mean for me?

I have already started my studies, what does this mean for me?

You will not be automatically transferred between the old and new qualifications. You can remain on the May 2012 specification and can continue to sit assessments until 5 August 2023 (please see '*What are the timeframes*').

If you would prefer to sit the 2021 specification assessments, you must discuss this with your Learning Partner so that they can register you for the correct unit and specification. Any previous units achieved as part of the old specification cannot be transferred.

How do I know which specification I am studying?

The easiest way of telling which specification you are on is the name of the qualification (EC vs EMC). If you are unsure, please speak to your Learning Partner.

What if I originally registered to sit the May 2012 specification and have not completed my qualification?

You will have until 5 August 2023 (please see '*What are the timeframes*') to pass your unit EC1 and/or EC2 assessments in order to complete your qualification.

If you have not completed the qualification by the last exam date, your previous units will no longer be valid. You will need to register to sit both units of the new specification if you still wish to achieve the qualification.

If you have not taken either of the assessments for the May 2012 specification, you can choose to take the assessments for the April 2021 specification instead. However, you will need to discuss this with your Learning Partner. You should note that if you do this you will need to pay the increased registration fees for the new units.

Can I take the assessments in a language other than English?

Assessments for this qualification will be offered in English only.

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

All qualification parchments and certificates gained under previous specifications of the Environmental Management Certificate are still valid; NEBOSH qualification certificates do not have expiry dates.



Transition arrangements

What are the timeframes?

April 2021 specification	
Taught from	2 August 2021
First assessment registration closing date	20 October 2021
First assessment	3 November 2021
May 2012 specification	
Accreditation end date	31 December 2021
Last date for registering new learners to the 2012 specification (note this registration is to confirm the learner is studying rather than registering to an examination)	31 December 2021
Last assessment date	5 August 2023

*These dates may be brought forward once SQA Accreditation have approved the EMC accreditation application. An update will be provided once the revised dates are known. The final assessment date will also be confirmed at this time.

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

A '**new learner**' is a person that has not been registered as studying for the May 2012 specification (ie they do not have a record in the NEBOSH systems against the EC May 2012 specification).

An '**existing learner**' is a person that has been registered as studying the qualification and/or for an assessment of the May 2012 specification. The status against the learner will show as 'Studying', 'Absent', 'Pending', 'Pass' or 'Refer'.



Fees / costs

Are the unit registration fees changing?

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

	Cost
Unit EMC1 – open book examination	£75
Unit EMC2 – Practical	£75
Total for 2 units	£150



Qualification level and recognition

Will the April 2021 specification of the Environmental Management Certificate be accredited by SQA?

Yes, it has been accredited and credit rated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA; www.sqa.org.uk) at SCQF Level 6 with 6 SCQF credit points within the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF; www.scqf.org.uk).

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.

If you require further information, please visit our [contact us](#) page.