

# National Occupational Standards for Transportation of Radioactive Material

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# Cogent Sector Skills Council

The Sector Skills Council for  
Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, Nuclear,  
Oil and Gas, Petroleum and Polymers



Chemicals  
Pharmaceuticals  
Polymers  
Petroleum  
Oil and Gas  
Nuclear

## Cogent SSC

- Cogent is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, Oil and Gas, Nuclear, Petroleum and Polymer Industries
- Licensed by the Government to provide employers in its sector with the opportunity for coherent leadership and strategic action to meet their skills needs

# Cogent's key objectives

The Sector Skills Council for  
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- Reduce the sector's skills gaps and shortages and anticipate future needs in the Cogent industries
- Improve productivity and business performance through specific strategic actions, based on analysis of sectoral priorities
- Increase opportunities to develop the productivity of the sector's workforce
- Improve learning supply, including the development of apprenticeships, higher education and of national occupational standards

# Cogent continued...

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- presents a clear and powerful voice, enabling sector employers to influence Government policy development and shape the outputs of training and education providers
- undertaken in-depth research and analysis to find out what contribution skills can make to business performance in our sector. This has shown that innovation, sustainability and productivity are ultimately dependent on skills



# What are National Occupational Standards?

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- National Occupational Standards (NOS) describe what a person needs to do, know and understand in their job to carry out their role in a consistent and competent way
- Developed by Sector Skills Councils - with employers - and approved by Government regulatory bodies
- Reflect needs of employers from all UK countries
- NOS are building blocks for UK qualifications and business improvement tools



# What are NOS used for?

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- National Occupational Standards can be used to:
- develop job descriptions
  - design training and development programmes
  - benchmark and improve performance of employees
  - inform best practice working
  - inform UK accredited qualifications
  - as a basis for Apprenticeships

# Transportation of RAM project

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## Background

- *major changes to the nuclear industry in general*
- *the regulations governing the Transport of radioactive material regulations have gone through a major revision*
- *the UK regulations changed, invoking the requirement of the IAEA and UN regulations, which brought training for those involved in the transport of RAM into the UK regulatory framework*
- *in response to a small consultation which included the DfT, the nuclear industry and training providers, there were concerns expressed about the competence of people involved with the transportation of RAM*



# Background - why NOS?

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- *NOS and a qualification were needed to ensure competence in an area, which, in terms of health and safety, is critical to be able to demonstrate*
- *The long term benefits for the nuclear sector would be the ability to utilise the NOS and a qualification as a platform to ensure a high and consistent standard of training*
- *It was envisaged that the creation of these NOS would be concentrated on the operational side of transport but might then be broadened to include a wider range of people and might even extend to the regulator DfT.*

# Transportation of Radioactive Material NOS - who involved?

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- Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE)
- Department for Transport
- GE Healthcare
- Gravatom
- Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
- International Nuclear Services
- Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
- Nuclear Skills Academy for Nuclear
- RAMTUC
- REVISS
- Sellafield
- Topspeed Couriers
- led by Cogent

# Process of development

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- **Initial meeting in April** - agreed basis of structure
  - key roles of consignor, consignee, packer, carrier, loader/unloader
- **3 workshops** - June, July, August - to produce drafts, reviewed at successive workshops
- **Consultation draft** - Consulted during September
- **Review meeting** - 8<sup>th</sup> October - review consultation comments and agree final draft
- **Final draft** submitted by end of October for approval by UKCG

# Consultation results

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- 92% of respondents agreed that it was critical that people involved in transporting RAM meet national standards of competence
- 69% agreed that it would be useful to have a qualification that would allow staff to demonstrate their competence

# What next?

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- Cogent working with employers on qualification structure for competence based qualification, using the 6 new Transportation of Radioactive Material NOS, and other NOS, relevant to the key roles
- Qualification ready within 6 months
- When NOS are approved, by end of year, they will be in the public domain and freely available from:
- <http://www.ukstandards.org.uk/> or through Cogent's website link:
- [http://www.ukstandards.co.uk/Find\\_Occupational\\_Standards.aspx?NosFindID=3&OrganisationID=11](http://www.ukstandards.co.uk/Find_Occupational_Standards.aspx?NosFindID=3&OrganisationID=11)



# Contact details

The Sector Skills Council for  
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Thank you for listening, and a big thank you to RAMTUC  
and for all those involved in the project working groups

Any questions?

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