



Alban Row
27-31 Verulam Road
St Albans
Herts
AL3 4DG

Tel: 01727 869008
Fax: 01727 843318
www.epicltd.com

Update



Issue: 12/08

Date: December 2008

Welcome to the December Edition of the EPIC Update

EPIC MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS IN PARTNERSHIP - A NEW COURSE AVAILABLE TO ALL

This new EPIC course has been designed through Industry consultation to support the Hard Target Initiative by giving employers and contractors some additional tools to improve safety at sites where contract work is being undertaken. Aimed at managers and others who have responsibility for managing contract work in quarries, processing plants and depots, and the contractors who carry out the work, this is not a “chalk and talk” course, but one with plenty of interaction between course members and trainer, with group exercises to reinforce the learning.

Course members will be introduced the EPIC 5 Steps to Contractor Management, and as well as the memory of what we hope will be an enjoyable, effective and rewarding learning experience, they will take away with them a set of checklists to help them apply their learning at site where it matters.

For further details or find out how to book a course, call Kerrie Mulgrew at EPIC Head Office on 01727 869008, or email her at kerrie.mulgrew@epicltd.co.uk

MINISTERS HAVE APPROVED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUALIFICATIONS & CREDIT FRAMEWORK

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) has announced the approval of the implementation of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). QCA, Ofqual and the LSC have been given the go ahead to implement the QCF in England over the next two years. It has been confirmed that the QCF will also be implemented in Wales and Northern Ireland

QCA will be working with partner organisations to develop the capacity of employers, Sector Skills Councils, training practitioners and learners to utilise the QCF. The QCF is a dynamic and flexible unit based qualification and credit system which will enable employers to focus on specific skills needs more efficiently by combining skills needs with fit for purpose training provision.

The introduction of the QCF will be the first regulated credit and qualification framework in the world. The QCF will enable individual learners to maintain an ongoing electronic record of learning and achievement and will provide benefits to employer, learning providers and also policy makers in terms of future skills development.

Look out for further updates on the QCF; we will keep you informed as progress is made with the implementation of the QCF.

REVIEW OF PLANT OPERATIONS NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS – YOUR INPUT WELCOMED

Construction Skills are carrying out a review of the Plant Operations standards which are implemented in the extractive and mineral processing industries as Plant Operations (Extractives).

Various issues have arisen with the NOS which require further examination to ensure they are fit-for-purpose for participating industries and include:

- adding additional endorsements using existing units
- requests to include for machine types which require the development of new units
- integration of the preparation unit (VR 386) into the specific operating unit
- amendment of the qualification structure to rationalise the optional routes.

Construction Skills are forming a Sector Skills Council and Standards Setting Body (SSC/B) Plant Operations Steering Group to advise and agree possible amendments to the standards and structure. An initial meeting has been proposed for mid-January and we have the opportunity to feed comments into this process.

As users of the Plant Operations NOS you may have comments and feedback that would be helpful to the review (please note the review is of the NOS themselves, not on the NVQ evidence requirements and assessment system).

- Are you happy with the NOS as they are?
- Is the format and/or degree of detail appropriate?
- Do you agree with the above possible amendments (VR386 is PL4 in Plant Operations (Extractives))?
- Are there any other amendments you feel need to be made?
- Are there any parts of the standard that have been difficult to implement or assess?

Please feedback any comments on the NOS to David Hudson on david.hudson@epicltd.co.uk by 1st January 2009.

EPIC APPROVED DRIVER CPC CENTRE

New courses are currently being developed for the EPIC Approved Centre for training for the Driver CPC. The new Driver Certificate of Competence, which replaces the LGV Licence, comes into force for LGV Drivers on 10th September 2009 as do the requirements for approved periodic training.

Two courses have been approved for delivery as periodic training from 10 September 2009, which are EPIC Site Safety Awareness and Safe Behaviour for Road Hauliers (leading to the EPIC Driver Skills Card), and Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving (SAFED). Courses currently in development at the request of the QPA Transport Committee are:

- Drivers' Hours and Digital Tachograph
- Safe Loading and Unloading of Vehicles
- Customer Service
- Health, Diet, and Fatigue Management
- Pre-driving Vehicle Checks
- Dealing with Accidents/Incidents

Once approved by the QPA Transport Committee, EPIC will submit these courses to JAAPT for inclusion in the EPIC Approved Centre for CPC. For more information contact EPIC on 01727 869008.

**EPIC SITE SAFETY AWARENESS AND SAFE BEHAVIOUR FOR ROAD HAULIERS
PUBLIC COURSES**

If you are interested in accessing public courses for road hauliers please email your requirements to Lynda McKill indicating the number of people you wish to attend the course, your preferred location for delivery and also preferred day of the week for delivery. We are currently logging all your requirements so that courses can be scheduled around your needs.

For further information or to email your requirements please email Lynda Mckill: Lynda.McKill@epicltd.co.uk or call on 01727 869008.



**Everyone at EPIC would like to
thank you for your continued
support during 2008 and we wish
you all a happy Christmas and best
wishes for 2009!**



All NEW for the New Year – more about this shortly!!

**For further information on how EPIC could help you, please call now on
01727 869008 or visit www.epicltd.com**