



**NEBOSH Level 6 National and International Diploma for
Occupational Health and Safety Management
Professionals (May 2023 specifications)**

Changes between July 2020 and May 2023 specifications – Learner guide

Contents

What's changed and why?	1
Key dates and transitional arrangements	6
Learning Partner selection and fees	7
Qualification level and recognition	8



What's changed and why?

Why have the qualifications changed?

The main reason for the changes is in order to secure IOSH membership recognition for our learners who have sat their assessments outside the UK. Although our longstanding Regulator, Scotland's SQA Accreditation, recognise many of our qualifications, they are only able to regulate where the assessment is taken within the UK. This means we are not permitted to use their logo on parchments where the learner is being assessed outside the UK. IOSH updated its criteria for membership in 2022, which requires a recognised Regulator's logo on parchments before they will accept them as evidence. This disadvantages our overseas learners.

We want all our learners to have the same opportunities and therefore set out to explore additional regulatory options. England's Regulator, Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation), allows the use of its logo for all parchments, regardless of where the learner has taken the assessment. This means our international Diploma learners can achieve a qualification and be issued with a parchment that meets IOSH's membership criteria.

We have also taken this opportunity to reduce each Diploma unit assessment's length and completion time. Each assessment will now have less total marks and will therefore have shorter timeframes for learners to complete and submit. The assessments will still cover the same depth of syllabus content, but will take less time for learners to complete.

What are the differences between the November 2015 and July 2020 specifications?

There have been **no changes to syllabus content or learning outcomes** – these will remain the same as the July 2020 specification versions. This is because a full review is not yet due as part of the qualifications' lifecycle, and there have been no significant changes in legislation since the July 2020 versions were released.

The changes are summarised below.

Change of regulator from SQA Accreditation to Ofqual

The NEBOSH National and International Diploma for Occupational Health and Safety Management Professionals are moving to Ofqual regulation. This will take effect from the July Diploma assessments.

Ofqual regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England. Qualifications offered internationally, such as the NEBOSH Diplomas, are also protected by Ofqual regulation, so long as these qualifications are also taken by learners in England.



Because of the change in regulator, the Diplomas will be classed as new specifications (May 2023) and will have new qualification titles in line with Ofqual requirements. These are:

- NEBOSH Level 6 National Diploma for Occupational Health and Safety Management Professionals (May 2023)
- NEBOSH Level 6 International Diploma for Occupational Health and Safety Management Professionals (May 2023)

These will be in effect from the Diploma assessments commencing 19 July 2023.

Moving to Ofqual means that we will regain IOSH membership recognition for our overseas learners (see following section for further details).

IOSH membership recognition

As part of the changes to its accreditation processes in 2022, IOSH announced it will no longer accredit qualifications that are not regulated. SQA Accreditation does not currently regulate outside of the UK and therefore does not permit use of its logo on parchments where learners took their assessments outside of the UK. This change meant that any NEBOSH learner who took their Diploma assessments outside of the UK would not be eligible to use their NEBOSH qualification towards IOSH membership unless they had registered/enrolled with NEBOSH by 31 August 2022.

By moving to Ofqual regulation, we are able to fulfil IOSH's accreditation requirement for regulation in any country that a learner takes their Diploma assessments. We therefore re-applied for IOSH recognition and can confirm that the NEBOSH National and International Diplomas meet the academic requirements to apply for IOSH membership at the appropriate grade*.

*IOSH retains the right to change its membership standards, recognition, and grade entry requirements. Please check the latest IOSH membership eligibility criteria at the time of applying.

New unit codes

For National Diploma, ND unit codes will change to DN (e.g. unit DN1), and International Diploma ID unit codes will change to DI (e.g. unit DI1). This is to help distinguish the two sets of qualification versions.

The unit titles will remain the same as the July 2020 specifications.

Reduced assessment length

The total marks per unit assessment will be reduced as follows:

- DN1/DI1 will reduce from 550 to 300 total marks
- DN2/DI2 will reduce from 375 to 175 total marks
- DN3/DI3 will reduce from 230 to 175 total marks.



DN1/DI1 will still consist of two papers, but the second paper will have one 'combined part' (instead of being split into parts 2, 3 and 4). Paper 1 will be 100 marks (reduced from 150 marks) and Paper 2 will be 200 marks (instead of 400 marks).

Reduced assessment hours

Due to the reduced total marks for each Diploma unit assessment, it will not take learners as long to complete and submit their assessments. Therefore, the expected total hours to complete and submission windows will change as follows:

- DN1/DI1 will reduce from 60 to 40 hours completion time. The submission window will be reduced from 6 weeks to 4 weeks from the assessment release date.
- DN2/DI2 will reduce from 40 to 20 hours completion time. The submission window will be reduced from 4 weeks to 2 weeks from the assessment release date.
- DN3/DI3 will reduce from 40 hours to 20 hours completion time. The submission window will be reduced from 4 weeks to 2 weeks from the assessment release date.

Reduced total qualification time and credits

Due to the assessment hours being reduced, the total qualification time and credits has reduced accordingly. Please note that there are no changes to the taught or private study hours, as the syllabus content **has not been changed from the July 2020 specification.**

- National Diploma – total qualification time reduced to 415 hours (43 credits)
- International Diploma – total qualification time reduced to 409 hours (42 credits)

I can see that you have changed the qualification title, why is this?

It is Ofqual protocol to include the RQF level within their regulated qualifications. Therefore we have amended the existing titles to include 'Level 6'.

Has the learner enrolment period changed?

No, the enrolment period will still be for 5 years. As with the July 2020 specification, the enrolment start date will initially be the date that you complete the enrolment. However, once you pass a unit, the enrolment start date will move to the declaration date of that unit.

Has the assessment structure of the 2023 specification changed?

No; there will still be three units.



When are the assessments for the May 2023 specifications?

The assessment release dates will stay the same as our current Diploma examinations timetable, although the submission dates will be reduced by two weeks to reflect to the reduced assessment length.

Unit	Release date	Submission date
DN1/DI1	13 September 2023	11 October 2023
DN2/DI2	15 November 2023	29 November 2023
DN3/DI3	19 July 2023	2 August 2023

What do the release and submission dates mean?

The release date is the date that you will be able to download the assessment paper and start work on your assessment.

Your completed assessment must then be uploaded/submitted to NEBOSH by the date specified. You will have the following time periods to complete each assessment:

- Unit DN1/DI1: 4 weeks (20 working days);
- Unit DN/DI2: 2 weeks (10 working days);
- Unit DN3/DI3: 2 weeks (10 working days).

You will be sent instructions on how to download the assessment paper and upload your completed work once you have been registered for each assessment.

Can I take all assessments at the same sitting?

No. We do not think this is practically possible nor desirable for most learners. There are several reasons for this. Each of the unit assessments have been designed so that they can be completed remotely, ie, you do not have to attend an examination venue. The assessments are a substantial undertaking; they are more applied and broader in scope than the current examination papers so you will need to spend more time completing each of them. As an average, we anticipate that it will take you around 40 hours to complete the DN1/DI1 assignment and 20 hours each for the DN2/DI2 and DN3/DI3 case studies. It is, therefore, not possible to complete all three assessments at the same time. We have therefore organised the release dates (see separate FAQ) to give you plenty of time to focus on each assessment separately and complete them comfortably.



As all assessments are taken remotely, how will NEBOSH detect any malpractice?

Once you have submitted your assessment for marking, you will be required to go through a 'professional discussion' with your Learning Partner.

NEBOSH uses anti-plagiarism software in connection with our digital assessments. Upon submission, a similarity report is generated for each assessment. The similarity report highlights potential plagiarism (i.e. unacknowledged or excessive copying from published sources; incomplete referencing; using the work of others etc.), as well as content that is identical to work submitted by other learners. Similarity reports are then reviewed by NEBOSH's Ethical Practice team and investigations opened accordingly.

NEBOSH also uses various tools and techniques to detect suspected malpractice including monitoring social media and procuring assessments offered for sale by third parties. For further information, please consult NEBOSH's Malpractice Policy which details potential outcomes of malpractice investigations. NEBOSH also produces a quarterly Ethical Practice Report, which can be found [here](#).

How is the final grade for my qualification calculated?

Once you have achieved a pass in each of the unit assessments (DN1/DI1, DN2/DI2 and DN3/DI3), you will have completed the qualification, which will then be graded. The grading is based by adding up the **combined percentage mark** for the three units and the following grading boundaries are then applied:

Distinction	226% or higher
Credit	196 – 225%
Pass	150 – 195%

Are sample assessments available?

Yes. The sample assessments can be downloaded from the NEBOSH website from the 'resources' section of the qualification page.

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

All qualifications gained under former specifications of NEBOSH Diplomas are still valid; NEBOSH qualifications do not have expiry dates.



Key dates and transitional arrangements

When can I register for May 2023 specification assessments?

The first assessment registration date will be 31st May 2023.

There is no 'taught from' date for the May 2023 specifications, as the syllabus content is identical to the July 2020 specifications which are currently being taught.

I am currently studying the July 2020 specification. What do these changes mean for me?

The May 2023 Diploma specifications will directly replace the July 2020 specifications, so there will be no dual running of the two versions. If you have already been registered by your Learning Partner to the July 2020 specification, you will automatically be transferred to the May 2023 specification. Any units you have passed on the July 2020 specification will be moved across as recognised prior learning and will contribute to your achievement of the May 2023 specification. Once you have passed all three units, you will receive a final parchment which reflects the Ofqual regulated specification.

Is additional learning required in order to transfer from the July 2020 to the May 2023 specification?

No. This is because there has been no changes to the syllabus content from the July 2020 specification versions.



Learning Partner selection and fees

Is there a list of Learning Partners that I could study with?

All accredited Learning Partners are listed in the 'Where to study' section of the NEBOSH website:
<https://portal.nebosh.org.uk/Studying/default.asp?cref=3&ct=2>.

What fees will I pay for taking the Diploma?

The course fee is agreed between yourself and your chosen Learning Partner.

You will also be required to pay the following fees to NEBOSH (these may be included with your course fees, you must check this with your Learning Partner).

Enrolment fee: £67

Registration fees: £147 per unit per assessment sitting.

Fees taken from the fees list applicable from 1 April 2023 (version 15a).



Qualification level and recognition

Will the May 2023 specifications be accredited by a qualification regulator?

Yes. NEBOSH has accredited both qualifications with Ofqual. The qualifications have been accredited as follows:

NEBOSH Level 6 National Diploma for Occupational Health and Safety Management Professionals: RQF Level 6 with 43 credits

NEBOSH Level 6 International Diploma for Occupational Health and Safety Management Professionals: RQF Level 6 with 42 credits.

Why has the total credits reduced for the Diploma qualifications?

This is because the total assessment time has been reduced. 1 credit is awarded for every 10 hours' learning time (rounded up/down to the nearest 10). The total credits are calculated per unit as follows:

National Diploma – total learning hours per unit	International Diploma - total learning hours per unit
DN1 – 175 hours = 18 credits	DI1 - 169 hours = 17 credits
DN2 - 125 hours = 13 credits	DI2 - 125 hours = 13 credits
DN3 - 115 hours = 12 credits	DI3 - 115 hours = 12 credits
Total qualification time: 415 hours (43 credits)	Total qualification time: 409 hours (42 credits)

If I have passed some unit assessments already under the July 2020 specification (SQA Accreditation version), will I still be able to achieve a parchment with the Ofqual logo on?

Yes. Ofqual will accept previously achieved units under the July 2020 specification as recognised prior learning towards the May 2023 specification. Provided that you pass at least one unit assessment that is regulated by Ofqual, you will receive a parchment with an Ofqual logo on.

Will I still be eligible for professional membership?

Both qualifications will be accepted for Grad IOSH membership. The qualifications will also continue to be recognised by BCSP towards their Certified Safety Professional (CSP) membership; by BCRSP for their membership scheme; and for full membership of IIRSM (MIIRSM).

If you require further information please contact NEBOSH's Customer Enquiry Team on +44 (0)116 263 4700, via email at info@nebosh.org.uk or via webchat.