



Measuring competence in the UK explosives industry

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Explosives & Search Competence

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Standards Setting Body for Explosives, Munitions and Search Occupations

- recognized by government as only developer of relevant National Occupational Standards
- established in 2000 to develop munition clearance & search standards & qualifications
- approached by MoD in 2003 to develop suite of standards & accreditation routes in explosives

Role of SSB for EMSO

- sets direction
- commissions, manages & contributes to projects to:
 - identify skills gaps & competence needs
 - develop standards/competences, qualifications & support material
 - advises on professional development
- marketing
- seeks funding
- provides research contacts

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Membership of SSB for EMSO

Representation from whole EMSO sector ie:

- military
- MoD non-uniformed
- commercial (eg manufacturers)
- other (eg educational & training establishments)

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SSB's products

The SSB has developed:

- occupational map
- functional map of the ESA domain
- c.450 standards
- 31 qualifications
- suite of evidence specifications that accompany the standards
- glossary
- assessment strategy
- key skills maps

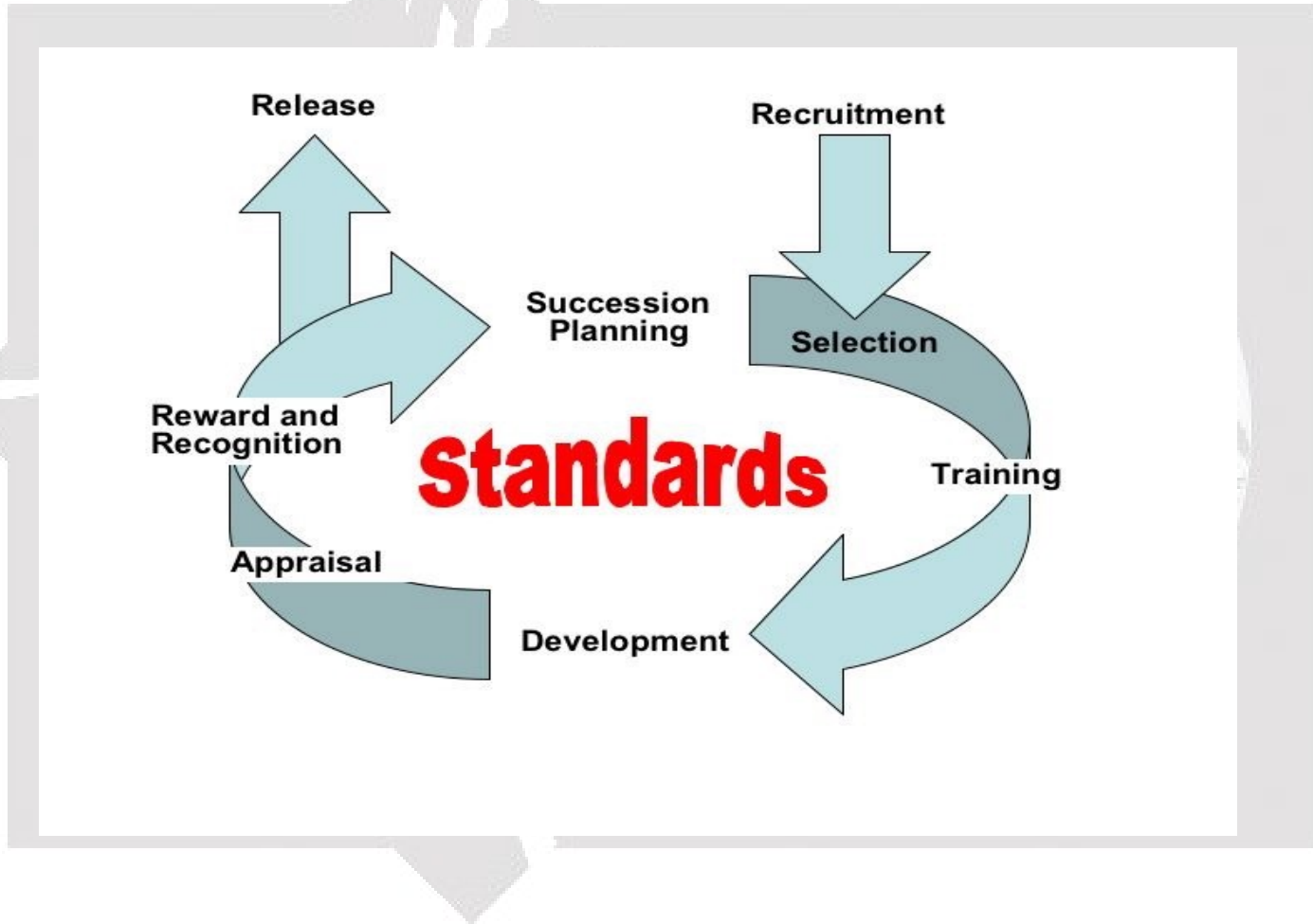
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What are National Occupational Standards?

The standards:

- describe UK standards of best practice
- are written as outcomes
- contain:
 - criteria by which someone's performance would be measured
 - descriptions of the parameters of competent performance
 - critical knowledge and understanding

Uses of National Occupational Standards



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Dstl: a case study

Dstl has:

- developed a career strategy
- created role profiles for explosives roles
- aligned training (internally delivered & externally commissioned) to the standards
- built the role profiles into the appraisal process
- developed an explosives PDP
- run small pilot

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Dstl: a case study - next steps

Dstl will:

- roll out the implementation of the standards
- find a common language
- forecast training needed

Next steps for E&SC

Future plans:

- Qualifications & Credit Framework (QCF)
- International qualifications
- CPD



Questions?

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