



NEBOSH Certificate NGC1/5 Risk assessment

Suggested answers to revision questions

A1 NEBOSH list the following 'incidents':

- ill-health
- injury accident
- dangerous occurrence
- near-miss
- damage-only

A2 A dangerous occurrence is defined in RIDDOR as being:

... if something happens which does not result in a reportable injury, but which clearly could have done, it may be a dangerous occurrence which must be reported immediately to the enforcing authority.

You should be able to give several examples of dangerous occurrences; if you remember, you were required to find this information in HSE31 (a publication which you look at in more detail in NGC1/8).

A3 Categorisation of health hazards; as we explained, health hazards are the subject of NGC2/6 and NGC2/7, covering:

- physical health hazards
 - » noise
 - » vibration
- chemical health hazards
 - » toxic gas (chlorine)
 - » agents which attack the nervous system (lead, mercury)
- biological health hazards
 - » allergic reactions to spores on agricultural products
 - » HIV
- ergonomic health hazards
 - » aches, strains
 - » problems associated with visual display units
- psychological health hazards
 - » stress, lethargy, hostility

A4 Acute and chronic effects

An acute effect usually involves a rapid response (seconds, minutes, hours) to high levels of exposure. Unless the victim dies, complete recovery from an acute effect is usually to be expected. (Make sure that you are able to provide examples of both physical and chemical acute effects. Most biological agents - for example legionella - will obviously give an acute effect or non.)

Chronic effects involve long-term response to exposure, in some cases quite low levels of exposure. Recovery from a chronic effect is not to be expected.

Allergic reactions, in which an individual becomes sensitised to a particular chemical or biological agent (dried animal bedding) cannot be put into either the acute or chronic category - in a sense they belong in both.





A5 *The legal basis of risk assessments is provided by regulation 3 of The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 which requires that ...*

... every employer shall make a suitable and sufficient assessment of:

- *the risks to the health and safety of his employees to which they are exposed whilst they are at work; and*
- *the risks to the health and safety, of persons not in his employment arising out of or in connection with the conduct by him of his undertaking,*

for the purpose of identifying the measures he needs to take to comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed upon him by or under the relevant statutory provisions ...

A6 *... in other words, the specific risk assessments which are required by other sets of Regulations, including:*

- The Noise at Work Regulations
- The COSHH Regulations
- The Manual Handling Regulations
- The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations

A7 *The results of the risk assessment must be prioritised:*

- *high priority, immediate action required*
- *medium priority, action required within weeks*
- *low priority, action required within months*

A8 *The five steps 'to assess the risks in your workplace' given in INDG163 and other HSE publications are as shown here:*

How to assess the risks in your workplace

Follow the five steps in this leaflet:

STEP 1: Look for the hazards

STEP 2: Decide who might be harmed and how

STEP 3: Evaluate the risks and decide whether the existing precautions are adequate or whether more should be done

STEP 4: Record your findings

STEP 5: Review your assessment and revise if necessary

