

1. ADR - Review Summary and Main Proposals

Consultation on Review of Dangerous Goods Driver Training Scheme 2008
(Conducted by Scottish Qualifications Authority on behalf of Department for Transport)

Background

Since the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) took over the administration of the ADR scheme in October 2006, it was always our intention to include a review of the syllabus and training structure as part of the scheme's ongoing development. In January 2008 the Department for Transport (DfT) asked SQA to consider how such a review could be approached. In March 2008 having agreed to our Project Plan, the DfT instructed SQA to conduct a full and thorough review on their behalf. The DfT'S overriding objective is to ensure the revised syllabus and training structure is aligned with domestic regulations and Chapter 8.2 of ADR. SQA are planning to have a revised syllabus and training structure operational by January 2009.

Introduction

The research phase of the review involved the formation of a Qualification Development Group (QDG) who's membership is drawn from a wide range of stakeholders. This group has now completed a review of the existing syllabus and training structure and are recommending a number of proposals.

The Main Proposals

1. All drivers must undertake a Basic Course consisting of three elements, Core Operational Duties, Practical Exercises and General Classes. The Basic Course shall cover the content of what is currently Core, Practical Exercises, Packages, and Classes 2,3,4,5,6,8 & 9. This removes the current option to attend a course consisting of Core, Practical Exercises, Packages or Tankers, and any combination of Class. The QDG concluded that on this point alone the current scheme is not fully aligned to domestic regulations and Chapter 8.2 of ADR. This also means that a driver wishing to take a course in Tankers or Class 1 or Class 7 must first complete a Basic Course. This proposal is therefore the most significant change necessary in order to ensure the scheme is more closely aligned with domestic regulations and ADR. It will contribute to drivers receiving a more rounded, consistent and measurable education in their overall responsibilities under ADR and domestic regulations. It also has the potential to increase a driver's employment opportunities, and contribute to the continuance of the safe transportation of dangerous goods.

2. The duration of a Basic Course including examinations to be three days instead of the current four days that the majority of drivers opt to undertake. This will reduce the time drivers spend gaining their ADR driver training certificate and get them back on the road quicker. We have been able to achieve this by closely reviewing the content of the current syllabus and examination structure, identifying areas of overlap in the Packages and Classes modules, and amalgamating these into either Core Operational Duties or General Classes.

3. Separate Specialisation Courses and examinations can be undertaken by drivers in Tankers, Class 1 and Class 7, the durations of which would remain the same as the current syllabus. This means the duration of the Basic Course and any of the specialisms would be as follows;

Basic Course and Tankers - 5 days

Basic Course and Class 1 - 4 days

Basic Course and Class 7 - 4 days

Basic Course, Tankers and either Class 1 and Class 7 - 6 days.

Basic Course, Tankers, Class 1 and Class 7 - 7 days.

4. There shall only be 3 examinations assessing driver knowledge, insight and skill as provided in the Basic Course. This means that all drivers must sit 1 examination in Core Operational Duties plus 2 in General Classes. The 2 general classes examinations are required to assess fully driver knowledge based on the content of the syllabus. This removes the current elective options open to drivers whereby the scheme allows selection of modular examinations from a range of 15 modules, with most drivers choosing to sit 5 examinations. This proposal introduces a much higher level of quality into the certification of the ADR qualification. It means that a driver receiving an ADR driver training certificate will have been examined to the same degree as any other driver, and eliminates the current disparity between certification in differing ranges of subjects, which may not cover all subject knowledge of ADR Chapter 8.2.

5. Refresher Training will follow the same structure as in 1 to 4 above. This requires all drivers who currently hold either a single-class or combination of classes other than being proposed under the Basic Course, will be required to attend a Basic Course at their first renewal and pass the corresponding examinations to gain a renewal of their ADR training certificate. Shortened Refresher specialisation courses and examinations will be retained in Tanks, Class 1 and Class 7.

6. To recognise the level at which the ADR qualification is set in comparison to others, an application should be made to have the Basic Course and Specialism courses placed in both the National Qualification Framework and Scottish Credit & Qualification Framework. This in turn may allow the possibility of attracting funding for ADR training courses.

About this document

The proposals of the QDG have been brought together into a questionnaire and a series of questions follow. We therefore wish to seek stakeholders' views on these proposals. We believe that this will enable an open and transparent approach to decision-making, and will inform the final recommendation made to the DfT.

This survey is being made available for ADR drivers to complete and we would ask you to encourage ADR drivers to complete this to ensure maximum feedback.

How to respond

Please note this is an on-line questionnaire and all responses will be automatically captured. Please ensure your responses are made by 04 September 2008.

This questionnaire will be analysed in a statistical way only and confidentiality is guaranteed. A correlation of answers to individual respondents will not be disclosed.

SQA will publish an analysis of the results by end of September 2008.

If you have any questions, comments on the questionnaire or prefer a hardcopy please contact Fraser Talbot, SQA, The Optima Building, 8 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DQ. Tel. 0845 213 5278 Fax. 0845 213 5000. fraser.talbot@sqa.org.uk

1. Respondents may provide their name and e-mail address for their responses. Please note that this information will be fully confidential, however we may wish to contact respondents for the purposes of clarification of comments. This information is not mandatory and respondents may leave this question blank.

Name:

Email

Address:

2. About You

* 1. What category best describes your involvement with dangerous goods driver training? Please select only the most relevant option.

Carrier

Consignee

Consignor

DGSA

Driver

Employer organisation / Trade association

Government Department

Ministry of Defence

Other Government organisation

Others

Trade union organisation

Training provider

Other (please specify)

3. Drivers Section

* 1. How long have you held an ADR driver training certificate for drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods?

1-5 years

6-10 years

11-15 years

First time on course

2. If you currently hold an ADR driver training certificate for drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods, what classes is the certificate valid for?

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6	Class 7	Class 8	Class 9
Packages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tankers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* 3. How would you rate your overall experience of attending an ADR training course?

Highly satisfying

Satisfying

Dissatisfying

Highly dissatisfying

* 4. Did you find the content of the training to be; (you can select more than one answer)

At an appropriate level for driver duties

An appropriate duration

Too technical

Too indepth

* 5. In your experience of attending an ADR driver training course how would you rate each of the following?

	Crucial	Very Important	Important	Least Important
Duration	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Venue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Price	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of training material	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality of training instructor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. If you have any additional comments relating to any of the questions in this Section, please use the box below.



4. Main Section - Existing Scheme

* 1. How satisfied are you with the current training structure?

Highly Satisfied

Satisfied

Dissatisfied

Highly dissatisfied

* 2. How satisfied are you with the current syllabus?

Highly satisfied

Satisfied

Dissatisfied

Highly Dissatisfied

Not applicable

* 3. How satisfied are you that the current scheme produces a consistent standard of trained driver?

Highly Satisfied

Satisfied

Dissatisfied

Highly Dissatisfied

* 4. How satisfied are you that the current Refresher training structure serves the purpose of bringing the drivers knowledge up to date?

Highly Satisfied

Satisfied

Dissatisfied

Highly Dissatisfied

Not applicable - have no knowledge of refresher training

5. If you have any additional comments relating to any of the questions in this Section, please use the box below.

5. Main Section - Proposed Scheme

* 1. Do you agree with the proposal for all drivers to attend a Basic Course comprising of the existing Core, Packages, individual general class (2,3,4,5,6,8 & 9) modules and Practical Exercises?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

* 2. Do you agree with the proposal that attendance by all drivers on the Basic Course must be compulsory irrespective of mode of carriage (ie carriage by tank or packages) or class specific job requirements?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

* 3. Do you agree with the proposal that the length of a Basic Course including examinations be no more than three days?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

* 4. Do you agree with the proposal that a driver would ONLY be permitted to attend the specialisation course(s) for carriage in Tankers, carriage of substances and articles in Class 1 and carriage of radioactive materials in Class 7 once a Basic Course and its examination(s) has been completed?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Not applicable

* 5. Do you agree with the proposal that the length of a Basic Course plus a specialisation course in tankers, including examinations would be 5 days?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Not applicable

* 6. Do you agree with the proposal that the length of a Basic Course plus a specialisation course in either Class 1 or Class 7, including examinations would be 4 days?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Not applicable

* 7. Do you agree with the proposal that the duration of a Basic Course, plus Tankers and either Class 1 or Class 7, including examinations be 6 days?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Agree

Not applicable

* 8. Do you agree with the proposal that the length of a Basic Course plus a specialisation course in Tankers, Class 1 and Class 7, including examinations would be 7 days?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Not applicable

* 9. Do you agree that the proposed Basic Course be assessed by 3 mandatory examinations?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Agree

* 10. Do you agree with the proposal that the 3 Basic Course examinations consist of a drivers core operational duties in one module and the characteristics of the main classes in the other 2?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

* 11. Do you agree with the proposal that if a driver fails ANY of the Basic Course examinations no certification will be issued?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

* 12. Do you agree with the proposal that module passes for Basic Course examination (s) will be retained for up to twelve months from notification of original result, to allow a driver to pass any other failed basic course examination(s) for certification?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

* 13. Do you agree with the proposal that once a driver gains passes in the 3 Basic Course examinations they will receive an ADR training certificate entitling them to carry Classes 2,3,4,5,6,8 and 9 in "Other Than in Tanks"?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

* 14. Do you agree with the proposal that all drivers refreshing an existing ADR training certificate must attend the Basic Course?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

* 15. Do you agree with the proposal that shortened Refresher courses will continue to be available for the specialisation courses for carriage in Tankers, carriage of substances and articles in Class 1 and carriage of radioactive materials in Class 7?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Not applicable

* 16. Do you support the proposal that an application should be made to have the Basic Course and Specialism Courses placed in both the National Qualification Framework and Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework, in order to recognise the level at which the ADR qualification is set in comparison to others?

Yes

No

17. If you have any additional comments relating to any of the questions in this Section, please use the box below.

6. Thank You

1. SQA on behalf of Department for Transport would like to thank you for completing this questionnaire.

An analysis of the results of this questionnaire will be presented to DfT in September 2008. DfT will take stakeholder opinion on these proposals into consideration.

SQA will publish a report to stakeholders summarising the outcomes of responses to the questionnaire.

If you have any additional comments you would like to make regarding any aspect of the ADR training scheme please use the box below.

