

Frequently Asked Questions

NSI 30 – Appointment of Persons

NG PERSON requirements **Jan 2020**

Issue 2 – Sept 2019

The purpose of this communication is to answer the questions raised by the changes to training requirements for individuals who require National Grid Person status to gain access and work in a National Grid substation or on an overhead line.

National Grid has recently launched its revised NSI 30 document Nov 2019, available to all via the link <https://www.nationalgridet.com/safety-and-emergencies/national-safety-instructions>

This document will now become live on January 20th 2020.

The requirements no longer includes the BESC:AME authorisation as a mandatory requirement for those individuals working on National Grid Substations or Overhead lines. Instead, from **20th January 2020**, all individuals who require this access will be required to undertake a National Grid in-house training course and assessment as part of a revised National Grid Person training and assessment. This will be available to book EUSR from 10th December 2019. No further Q&A communications will be published unless they contain significant changes or information.

NSI 30 Person 2019/20 FAQ's

Q. Will all practical assessments be carried out at Eakring.

A. Yes. *Based on predicted numbers and favourable environmental conditions all practical assessments will be carried out at Eakring initially, however this will be subject to review and feedback received.*

Q. Is a practical assessment only required for those who haven't previously held PERSON and BESC AME?

A. Yes. *If renewed before the authorisation lapses, this can be completed via e-learning. The practical element will be very similar to the practical element that is in the current BESC Authorisation.*

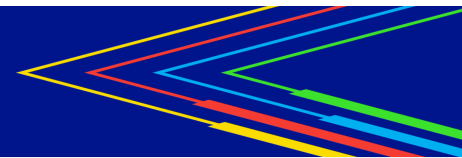
Q. Will contractors be able to undertake both Substation and OHL training and assessments on the same day or will these be over 2 separate days?

A. *This will require 2 separate bookings, one day for the Substation PERSON and one day for the OHL PERSON, as the 1st time course now contains the practical and E-Learning elements, it will now last one day per Authorisation.*

Q. Where no practical assessment is required, will PERSON still be available on pods and coaches or only at Eakring?

A. *PERSON will not be delivered at the Coaches. First time Person's will need to attend Eakring, refreshers can be delivered remotely via e-learning. Competent Person Authorisation arrangements via the coaches and pods have not altered.*

Frequently Asked Questions Cont.



Q. When will the booking of courses be available?

A. *Booking will be available through EU Skills in due course and the expected date for bookings to be made via the new EUSR system is December 10th 2019.*

Q. Will contractors working near OHL's that haven't had to previously hold PERSON, just BESC AME, now need to do the new In-house PERSON and practical assessment?

A. *Yes, as the National Grid Safety Rules state..... Work on or Near to....., then NG PERSON will be required when working Near to OHL's.*

Q. Local agreements that only Linesmen have BESC and everyone else just has Person, will we need to do 1 day course moving forward?

A. *If the work is under National Grid Safety Rules then Person is, as always, required, if the work is in a CDM controlled area only, then the Principle Contractor will decide what qualifications / Authorisations are required.*

Q. Will practical assessment for OHL include elements of climbing, putting on pennants etc like it does on our current BESC Assessment? (question from a PC who also does BESC in-house)

A. *It is not envisaged that is required as part of the practical assessment.*

Q. Currently if we have individuals working on a cabling project they will be authorised in Persons Substations / BESC Substations & BESC Cables. From the 20th January, if an individual is entering a substation we will obviously put them through the Persons or Comp Person Substation CBT, but if they are purely working on the cables outside of the substation what authorisation would they be expected to have if BESC Cables is being dropped?

A. *As with the answer above, as the National Grid Safety Rules state..... Work on or Near to....., then NG PERSON will be required when working on or near to NG assets outside of a substation, that requires NG Safety Documentation i.e. digging down to cables under an LAC. Therefore, NG PERSON Substation will be required.*

Q. Will the new training then include elements of what was covering in the BESC Cable Training and assessments?

A. *Substation Person covers basic safety, cable contractors are deemed as specialist contractors and as such their Employee will be responsible for Cable specific training.*

Q. If I sit Person and BESC AME is October, do I need to sit the new qualification or e-learning come January?

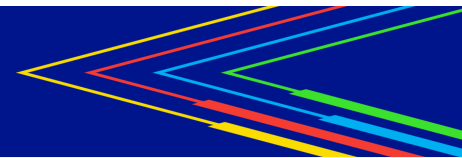
A. *No. All Authorisations successfully completed before January 20th will be accepted for the full period.*

Q. What will the cost be of the new PERSON 1st time and PERSON renewal courses?

A. *The final figures are being worked out and it is envisaged that the 1st time PERSON course will be cheaper than the combined cost of the current 2 BESC and PERSON courses. It is also envisaged that the renewal (online only) course will be at a cost lower than the 1st time PERSON course. Full costings will be posted on the EUSR Web Portal in due course.*

Q. At the moment if we book via a CITB ATO we can claim grant monies back for BESC, will this loss in what we can claim be taken into account with the new costs?

A. *This will not form part of the pricing structure.*



Q. When will these costs be available? We currently pay £220 or £320 for PERSON and £185 (including training, lunch, assessment, EUSR registrations and cards) will a 1 day course be cheaper than this?

A. *Yes this is envisaged. Although not decided yet. Reduced travel time and down time on the job due to making the refresher an e-learning will also provide cost benefits.*

Q. Do we renew a month early or wait? Concerned about my staff being guinea pigs and what the new costs are?

A. *There is no requirement to renew ahead of any lapsing Authorisations, because if you are renewing a BESC / PERSON Authorisation (that will only require PERSON now), the direct cost will be lower.*

Additionally, the indirect costs will also be significantly reduced – as travel, accommodation, time and effort will not be required – as the renewal Authorisation will be booked and paid for online, via the EU Skills web portal, and then the E-Learning / Assessment will be delivered and undertaken online from any computer or laptop at the convenience of the individual who is taking it.

Q. Does this mean that NG are passing competency for electrical safety to us as contractors? We are civils biased and don't have resources for this?

A. *The electrical safety bias, i.e. demonstration of electrical knowledge to avoid danger, has always been incumbent upon the contractor to demonstrate and their Employer must ensure that the most suitably trained and qualified people are engaged to complete the work in hand. Contractors who are PERSON Authorised only will still be working under a Safety Document that will be held by a COMPETENT PERSON and there will still be site inductions to point out any hazards not identified in the Safety Documentation, RAMS or associated Work pack.*

Q. Will the PERSON course be delivered by National Grid themselves or will contracted trainers be used?

A. *It is envisaged that there may be a need for some of the courses to be delivered by a Contracted Service Provider, but those arrangements will be in line with NG's Contracted Service agreement and Tender process.*

Q. When an individual reaches the expiry date of their Persons or Competent Person, whether that be 2020 or beyond, they will need to sit the new CBT package. Will the venues be Eakring and the current PC Coach venues?

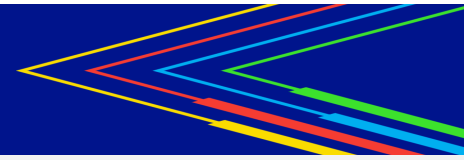
A. *Renewal for PERSON Authorisation can be undertaken at any location on a PC or Laptop – so journey's to Eakring and the PC Coach venues will not be required. Arrangements for the renewal of COMPETENT PERSON Authorisations have not altered.*

Q. Will this be on a laptop owned by NG or will the delegate be sent a link for completion to their own laptop?

A. *This will be accessible on any suitable device via EUSkills portal.*

Q. Will the refresher need PC's laptops to be of as certain spec? will we need a webcam? Will we need to invigilate our own staff?

A. *The e-learning will work on a full range of PC's, Laptops, Tablets and most modern mobile devices. No Webcam is required. It is an employer's responsibility to ensure the training of their own staff and that assessment is carried out to the correct guidelines.*



Q. Will NG be sending invigilators to our sites?

A. No

Q. Will voice over still be available?

A. Yes

Q. Will the questions be timed or can we take as long as we need?

A. *There is no time limit on the questions but the hosting platform may timeout on lack of activity. It is the delegates responsibility to complete the training once it has started.*

Q. Will this still be available in French, Spanish, German and Polish as well as English?

A. *No. If a delegate needs the Person training in another language, they may source an interpreter. This will need to be organised via a separate process which is a work in progress.*

Q. Will the Impressed Voltage Module also be online?

A. Yes

Q. Will 10 days' notice still be needed to book this?

A. *Yes initial Person will still have this rule but e-learning can be accessed as soon as payment is cleared.*

Q. How many attempts will we have? If we fail will we need to do the full 1 day course?

A. *For the online renewal, if the required standard is not met, there will be one more attempt. If this is failed again, the substandard performance means that the delegate should attend the 1 day course again.*

Q. If someone has held NG authorisation previously but it has lapsed for a while, i.e. 2 or 3 years, will they be treated as new and need the new practical assessment or can they just sit the new CBT package?

A. *As with all lapsed Authorisations the individual in question will have to start as if they were a 1st timer and undertake the practical assessment and E-Learning.*

Q. If new to Competent Person level, does the individual just need to have the 9-day form completed? I ask as currently they need to have BESC AME in date as well.

A. *The prerequisite for COMPETENT PERSON has been updated so that BESC AME is no longer a requirement, so the 9-Day form or any of its equivalent alternatives will be accepted as the route to COMPETENT PERSON.*

Q. Are NG planning to issue any communications to the supply chain providers?

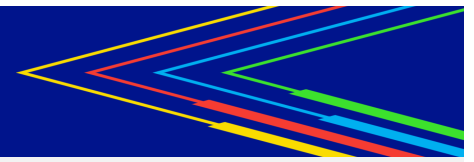
A. *NG have already supplied communications via the NG Global Procurement and National Contracts department, however further communications will be sent out along with these Frequently Asked Questions as we get closer to launching the new training.*

Q. When will information on the new courses be available?

A. *Development is still in progress with 20th January the target date for delivery.*

A. *December 10th is now the date for bookings via the new EUSR system with courses commencing on the 20th Jan.*

Frequently Asked Questions Cont.



Q. How many candidates will be allowed per course?

A. *The current expectations are that 6 candidates per course (in line with current BESC course arrangements) will be the maximum number of candidates allowed to ensure the evaluations are given the due diligence that they require.*

Q. Will multiple courses then per day be available?

A. *Initially there will be 2 courses per day, however after a period of implementation, and gauging demand, this may re-assessed.*

Q. Will courses be available on the weekend?

A. *Initial Person training will be Monday to Friday. The e-learning refresher will be available at any time.*

Q. Our staff our not based near Eakring, this will increase our travel time and costs significantly, especially as in some cases 1 day travel either side of this will be needed. Please can this decision be reviewed?

A. *To give assurance and raise standards the company view is that we will carry out Initial Person training at Eakring. This may be reviewed after a period of implementation, but the renewal benefits of not having to travel to refresh the Authorisation should compensate for any initial inconvenience.*

Q. Will Classroom training be provided prior to this renewal assessment like currently provided by Pragmatic before my staff undertake BESC assessment?

A. *No - if they fail, it shows they are not at a standard and should do initial course again. Contractors are free to source pre-training from any current supplier direct.*

Q. What happens if they fail the practical? Will they need to redo the 1 day course again?

A. *Yes*

Q. As there is no practical element now, could delivery of these at weekends be considered?

A. *There is no practical element for the refresher course. As this is e-learning it can be carried out remotely at any time that is convenient to the renewal applicant.*

Q. Will these courses still have to be booked with 10 working days' notice?

A. *There is no change to the initial Person courses with regards to notification periods.*

Q. Will we still have to pay upfront? Or will NG allow credit accounts?

A. *Upfront payment is still required, all transactions will be through EU Skills booking platform*

Q. Will we need to upload evidence of H&S Training and Proof of Identification?

A. *It is still prerequisite before carrying out training. It is the contractor responsibility to declare this but no upload is required. EUSR will gather info to prove identification in line with GDPR guidelines.*

Q. Can we have an outline of the new course?

A. *All info will be available from the EUSR website in due course.*

For any further questions or queries please contact:

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