



# **British Safety Council Certificate in COSHH Risk Assessment**

## **2020 Specification**

Version 1

For assessments from 2020

Qualification code: NR/C/COSHHRA/01

## **Publishing Policy for Specifications**

For all British Safety Council specifications, the electronic version on the British Safety Council website is definitive in the case of any difference between it and a previously printed version.

The electronic version on the website is updated if any significant changes are made during the lifetime of a specification.

**Please check that this printed version of the specification is the latest version by visiting [www.britsafe.org](http://www.britsafe.org)**

## **Acknowledgements**

The British Safety Council recognises and values all those who contribute their time and expertise to the development of its specifications.

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## The British Safety Council

Formed in 1957, the British Safety Council is one of the world's leading health and safety organisations.

Our vision is that no-one should be injured or made ill by work.

For more than half a century we've been a trusted guide to excellent health, safety and environmental management. We have educated millions of workers and made hundreds of thousands of workplaces safer for everyone. We do this by sharing information, supporting, advising, educating and campaigning. We are a not-for-profit organisation.

We have changed the world of work for the better and we will never stop, because excellent health, safety and environmental management is good for your people and good for your business.

### The British Safety Council Certificate in COSHH Risk Assessment

The British Safety Council Certificate in COSHH Risk Assessment aims to provide supervisors and employees with knowledge and understanding of the COSHH risk assessment process and the skills required to undertake a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

The online assessment task relates directly to the learner's workplace and tests the application of learning in a practical context.

The assessment structure is as follows:

Method	Assignment
Language	English
Format	Online
Duration	The assessment must be completed no more than 6 weeks after the learning has commenced. Re-submissions must be made within 6 weeks of result notification.
Grading	Pass or Fail only. Pass mark 12 out of 18
Re-submission opportunities	Unlimited, re-submission fee applies

While the British Safety Council Certificate in COSHH Risk Assessment is a stand-alone qualification, it allows for lateral progression to other British Safety Council qualifications including

- British Safety Council Certificate in Risk Assessment
- British Safety Council Certificate in Manual Handling Risk Assessment
- British Safety Council Certificate in DSE Risk Assessment
- British Safety Council Certificate in Fire Risk Assessment
- British Safety Council Certificate in COSHH Risk Assessment
- British Safety Council Certificate in Supervising Staff Safely

## Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

The learning outcomes state what a learner will be expected to know, understand or be able to do and the assessment criteria describe the requirements that a learner is expected to meet to demonstrate a learning outcome has been achieved.

Learning Outcome	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand the importance of COSHH risk assessments	1.1 Outline the reasons for conducting COSHH risk assessments 1.2 Outline the main legislation relating to COSHH risk assessments
2. Know the main types of hazardous substance and how they may cause harm	2.1 Describe different forms of hazardous substance 2.2 Classify different hazardous substance 2.3 Describe the ways in which hazardous substances can enter the body and the harm they can cause
3. Understand the principles of controlling the risks from hazardous substances	3.1 Describe the factors to be considered when assessing the risks from exposure to hazardous substances 3.2 Describe the hierarchy of controls in relation to the control of hazardous substances
4. Understand how a COSHH risk assessment is undertaken	4.1 Describe the stages of a COSHH risk assessment 4.2 Outline the circumstances in which a COSHH risk assessment should be reviewed

## Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements for the British Safety Council Certificate in COSHH Risk Assessment. However, it is expected that learners will have a level of literacy adequate to cope with the assessment.

## Arrangements for Learning and Assessment

Learning can be completed via British Safety Council digital learning, Live on Line Learning or face to face training either in-company or at one of our venues. Please visit [www.britsafe.org/training-and-learning](http://www.britsafe.org/training-and-learning) for options.

Once learning is completed, learners complete their assessments online. Payment must be made to the British Safety Council before the assessment is conducted usually this is included in the course fee. For digital learners the assessment will be unlocked once the learning is complete. For learners trained in a classroom British Safety Council will provide log in details to complete assessments on-line once the training has been completed.

Learners may visit the online system as many times as they like, adding to their answers and saving their work as they go. Once the learner submits their work for marking, they can no longer edit their answers. Learners have 6 weeks from enrolment to complete and submit the assessment.

Completed assessment tasks are marked online by independent examiners and learners are informed of their results by email. Learners' results are reported as a grade (Pass or Fail) for the qualification as a whole. Learners' raw marks are also reported. A pre-defined quota of passes to be awarded does not exist - if all learners achieve the pass mark, then all learners will be awarded a pass grade.

In most cases, results are issued within 20 working days and electronic certificates follow within 5 working days thereafter.

## Marking Scheme

The marking scheme is provided as follows for reference:

	<b>3 marks</b>	<b>2 marks</b>	<b>1 mark</b>	<b>0 marks</b>
<b>Rationale</b>	Clear description of workplace/ area. Clear rationale for risk assessment.	Adequate description of workplace/area. Adequate rationale for risk assessment.	Limited description of workplace/area. Limited rationale for risk assessment.	No description of workplace/ area, or no rationale for risk assessment.
<b>Methodology</b>	Clear description of a range of appropriate techniques.	Adequate description of one or more appropriate techniques.	Limited description of techniques which may not always be appropriate.	No description of techniques or wholly inappropriate techniques.
<b>Hazards and classifications</b>	Range of hazards and relevant classifications clearly identified.	At least one hazard and relevant classification clearly identified.	Hazards and classifications not entirely clear.	Hazards and classifications not identified.
<b>Process, route of entry and ill-health effects</b>	Process, route of entry and ill-health effects clearly described.	Process, route of entry and ill-health effects adequately described.	Process, route of entry and ill-health effects inadequately described.	Process, route of entry and ill-health effects not described.
<b>Existing control measures</b>	Range of control measures clearly identified and their effectiveness clearly described.	Limited range of control measures identified with some reference to effectiveness.	At least one existing control measure identified but no reference to effectiveness.	No existing control measures identified.
<b>Proposed control measures</b>	Appropriate measures clearly outlined.	At least one appropriate measure clearly outlined.	Inadequate or inappropriate measures outlined.	No measures outlined.

## Language of Assessment

The online assessment task is presented in English and learners must respond in English. Learners for whom English is a second language are advised that their reading and writing skills should be equivalent to at least Level 4 of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Test for Non-Native Speakers of English. Information on this language testing service is available on the IELTS website ([www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)).

## **Authentication**

The completed task must be entirely the learner's own work. Learners are responsible for identifying a senior work colleague, normally their line manager, to authenticate their work. This individual must provide contact details to the British Safety Council to permit checks to be made. These contact details are required to be entered at the start of the online assessment task.

Plagiarism is a serious form of malpractice, and learners found guilty of it will be disqualified from this and other British Safety Council qualifications and no refund of fees will be due. A learner may be asked to re-submit their assessment or provide evidence that the work was completed independently. At the same time, it represents a lost opportunity for the learner's organisation to benefit directly from the work undertaken to complete assessment tasks. Line managers, or individuals authenticating learners' work, are expected to make checks to ensure that the work is indeed the learner's own.

## **Reasonable Adjustments**

When necessary, the British Safety Council approves reasonable adjustments for learners with particular requirements to enable them to have access to fair assessment and to demonstrate achievement. Learners may require reasonable adjustments for a number of reasons including a permanent or temporary disability or medical condition.

Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure that learners receive recognition of their achievement without compromising the equity, validity and reliability of the assessment. They are not concessions to make assessment easier for learners, nor advantages to give learners a head start.

The Reasonable Adjustments Policy can be found at: <https://www.britsafe.org/media/1825/reasonable-adjustments-policy.pdf>.

## **Special Consideration**

Special consideration involves procedures that may result in an adjustment to the marks of learners who have not been able to demonstrate attainment because of exceptional circumstances during the assessment itself.

The British Safety Council ensures that its special considerations treat learners fairly and in accordance with national guidelines.

A learner who is fully prepared for an assessment may be eligible for special consideration if:

- performance in an assessment is affected by circumstances beyond the control of the learner (e.g. recent personal illness, accident, bereavement);
- reasonable adjustment arrangements which were agreed in advance of the assessment proved inappropriate or inadequate.

The special consideration policy can be found here: <https://www.britsafe.org/media/1831/special-consideration-policy.pdf>

## **Malpractice**

The fairness of the assessment process depends upon all parties adhering to the highest professional standards of conduct. Any evidence of deviation from such standards may lead to disqualification of learners and prevent these learners accessing BSC qualifications in the future.

All examiners and staff are required to report suspicions of malpractice of anyone involved in delivering the qualification. Such reports should be made to the British Safety Council [compliance@britsafe.org](mailto:compliance@britsafe.org) for investigation and resolution.

Examples of malpractice include:

- a learner copying another learner's work
- a learner assisted by a third party in completion of assessment
- a learner copying text from any other source into their assignment
- a learner using others' ideas and words in an assignment without clearly acknowledging the source of the information (plagiarism)
- a tutor giving a learner unfair assistance with an assessment
- the revelation of questions to learners before the time of the Assessment
- errors or omissions in information supplied to the British Safety Council

## **Marking, Awarding and Reporting of Results**

Assessment tasks for the British Safety Council Certificate in COSHH Risk Assessment are marked by examiners appointed and trained by the British Safety Council. Rigorous standardisation procedures ensure that all examiners apply the marking scheme in exactly the same way and that all tasks are marked to the same standard.

The pass mark is 12 out of 18. Learners' results are reported as pass or fail. A pass grade reflects the fact that the learner has met the assessment criteria set out in this specification.

## **Result Enquiries and Appeals**

The British Safety Council endorses the right of individuals to enquire about their result and to appeal against the outcome of that enquiry. Procedures are in place to ensure that result enquiries and appeals are dealt with thoroughly and fairly.

A result enquiry or an appeal can result in a grade being confirmed, raised or lowered. Where a grade is changed, the new grade will replace the original grade, whether it is higher or lower.

The Result Enquiries and Appeals Policy can be found at <https://www.britsafe.org/media/5478/result-enquiries-and-appeals-policy-v3.pdf>