British Occupational Hygiene Society
Faculty of Occupational Hygiene

Requirements for Practical Assessments of

Proficiency Module

P601 – Commissioning and Thorough Examination and Testing of Local Exhaust Ventilation Systems

---

General:

The course provider is responsible for providing all of the suitable facilities, including all safety provisions, for the practical assessment for this Module.

The room(s) and other locations in which this assessment is conducted must be suitable for the purpose.

The assessment must be supervised throughout by an approved assessor(s) who must be satisfied that the facilities and equipment provided are suitable for the practical assessment.

The practical assessment is an examination and comprises several elements. The assessment of all the elements must take place at the date, time and location declared. Unapproved changes may result in the examination being declared void. Candidates may have access to relevant reference material during the examinations but must not be allowed to communicate with each other.

Assessors must ensure that candidates complete and sign the Practical Assessment Attendance Form before the examination begins. This form must be returned to the BOHS office within five working days of the date of the examination.

The practical assessment for each candidate must contain the essential elements as detailed in the syllabus and described below.

These notes are intended to provide assessors with more details of the requirements and to try to ensure that all assessors operate to similar standards.

In order to be awarded a pass, assessors must be confident, as far as is reasonably practicable, that a candidate is competent to carry out all aspects of the essential elements as detailed in the syllabus.

Many assessors also evaluate the performance of candidates during the practical work required in the course, by either one to one evaluation or more often by asking the candidates to prepare notes which are then marked against a marking schedule. These not only provide additional evidence of competence but also show the assessor whether the candidates have fully understood the lectures etc. However, these approaches may not always be practicable if the assessor is only present on the last day.

All assessors and course providers must keep records of all candidates and their performance at assessment.

Safety Responsibility:

The assessor is responsible for checking that the safety arrangements made by the course provider for the practical examination are satisfactory and that they are observed by all those present.

Assessment:

The assessment must test the candidate's ability in the following areas:

- Visualisation of air flows as a means to test control (smoke tubes, smoke generators and dust lamps) on at least two typical ventilation systems.
- Duct measurements using:
  - a pitot tube traverse, and how to calculate an average transport velocity from a pitot tube traverse.
  - a selection of static pressure measurements at different points in a ventilation system, and understand the variation in the readings across the system and what would happen if the filters are overloaded, or a duct is blocked.
- Measurements in relation to a selection of extract points (e.g. face velocity or capture velocity) using thermal and vane anemometers and show understanding of requirements.
- Knowledge of the requirements for working at height, permit to work,carrying out risk assessments and demonstrate knowledge of the use of PPE/RPE along with other safety related issues likely to be met in ventilation testing
- Evidence of Field Proficiency by the use of a case study [Can be drawings of systems with data provided along with photographs of the captor devices] which must test the candidates abilities to evaluate whether adequate control has been achieved by the ventilation systems. This must include a full understanding of the numbers produced by the tests (e.g. what is an acceptable capture velocity for the application? What duct velocity would prevent dust deposition in this situation? What is likely cause of the static pressure going up or down to a significant degree compared to the last test? etc).

The testing of knowledge will normally be divided into two parts. One will involve the evaluation of diagrams and photographs with data and the other will involve the making of actual measurements on systems. The latter stage is best conducted on a one to one basis with the assessor. All testing must be evaluated using marking schedules and check lists.