

Professional Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the General Public

Who is the Register for?

The Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals enables members of the public, including employers and businesses, check the professional status of any individual involved in paid occupational hygiene work in the UK. Like almost all other professions which have a direct impact on human health, it is in the public interest that it is possible to confirm the level and professional status of an individual who has health protection duties.

Why do we need the Register?

The workplace environment has a huge potential impact on the working population of the UK. Professionals who are employed to ensure that the workplace environment is healthy and within legal limits are therefore vital to protecting the health of the nation. There are several professional bodies which have membership providing occupational hygiene related services. However, until the launch of the Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals, there has been no authoritative list where all providers, regardless of professional affiliation, could be located.

Who runs the Register?

The Register is quality assured under the supervision of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene which is the professional standards body for Occupational Hygiene. It is regulated under statute by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care.

The Register is funded through the registration fees of the Professionals listed and is subsidised through the charitable work of the British Occupational Hygiene Society, an independent scientific organisation and the Chartered Society for Worker Health Protection. For more information contact membership@bohs.org

How do I use the Register?

The Register consists of searchable fields which will enable you to check whether an individual is on the register, their level of expertise, membership level (if a member of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene) and whether a complaint under the [Code of Ethics](#) has been upheld.

If someone is not on the Register, what does it mean?

The Register is being rolled out during the latter part of 2023 and into 2024. Initially, the register will largely consist of Occupational Hygienists who are already members of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene. Over the coming months, the register will start enrolling professional Occupational Hygienists who are not members of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene, as well as other professionals, all of whom will have some competence to provide occupational hygiene services, but normally within a restricted category of activities or subject to supervision by a qualified occupational hygienist.

Once fully populated, an individual pertaining to providing Occupational Hygiene services who is not on the Register would need to be able to evidence their competence, training and attributes. A user of their services would need to demonstrate that they undertook due diligence

to ensure that they were a competent person in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Should I use someone who is not on the Register to provide my Workplace Health advice?

If you need advice on how effective measures are in controlling workplace health risks, you need a competent occupational hygienist, and such individuals should be on the register. You should also consult the [BOHS Buyers Guide for Occupational Hygiene Services](#), the use of which is supported by the HSE. If you do seek occupational hygiene services from other sources, it is your legal duty to check that they have professional qualifications and experience that will enable them to give you the advice that you need.

What about other directories which list Occupational Hygiene Services?

The Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals is the only register in the UK that verifies individuals and which specifically checks their professional competence status.

The [Directory of Occupational Hygiene Services \(bohs.org\)](#) is a directory of businesses providing occupational hygiene services. The [Occupational Safety and Health Register \(oshcr.org\)](#) also includes some providers of commercial Occupational Hygiene Services. These directories should be used alongside the Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals to ensure that current staff have the appropriate qualifications and experience.

Is there any guidance about how to choose an Occupational Hygiene Provider?

When choosing a company providing Occupational Hygiene services, you may also wish to refer to the [BOHS Buyers Guide for Occupational Hygiene Services](#) to help you make good procurement decisions. You may also wish to refer to the [Good Practice Guide for Occupational Hygiene Consultants](#) to determine the appropriate standards of service.

What if I have a complaint about the services received by someone on the register?

All registrants have a duty to comply with the [BOHS Faculties Code of Ethics](#). There is a [Complaints Procedure](#) which accompanies the Code of Ethics which enables you to complain about the services received from a Registered Professional if you think that person is not complying with the Code of Ethics.

What if I have a complaint about someone not on the Register?

If a person is not on the Register, but providing occupational hygiene advice, you can let us know. We may not be able to take action, but may be able to provide further guidance on next steps.

How do you decide who should be included on the Register?

Registration is subject to a check on the appropriate level of qualification, experience and other due diligence checks. Registrants have to commit to continuing professional development to stay up to date and to our [Code of Ethics](#) which binds them to professional standards.

What is its legal status of the Register ?

The Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals is a voluntary statutory register. That means that the Register is maintained under strict conditions and is subject to regulation by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care. It is possible for a person to provide services without being registered and without it being unlawful, but such an individual would need to be able to evidence their competence, training and attributes. A user of their services would need to demonstrate that they undertook due diligence to ensure that they were a competent person in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Who maintains the Register?

The Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals is maintained by the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene which operates the UK's Chartered and professional qualifications framework for occupational hygiene and is the UK's independent professional standards body. It is hosted by the British Occupational Hygiene Society, an independent scientific charity, incorporated under Royal Charter.

Who regulates the Register?

The Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals is regulated by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care, setup by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, which regulates healthcare professional bodies in the public interest. The Professional Standards Authority reports directly to Parliament on the effectiveness of professional regulation of healthcare services, which now encompasses occupational hygiene.

How is the Register funded?

The Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals is funded at cost through the fees of registrants. Fees for members of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene are discounted against costs to general registrants and paid alongside FOH membership fees. For 2024, the cost for a member of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene is £25

How does the Register relate to other professional registers?

The Register of Occupational Hygiene Professionals sits alongside accredited registers such as that for Public Health Practitioners and more than 60 other professional healthcare fields. As well as regulating specialist registers such as ours, the Professional Standards Authority also oversees the registration of health and care professionals working in occupations that Parliament has said must be regulated, such as doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

For anything else, please contact register@bohs.org