



نظام الشارقة للسلامة والصحة المهنية
Occupational Safety & Health Sharjah

حكومة الشارقة
هيئة الوقاية والسلامة

Government of Sharjah
Prevention & Safety Authority



Guideline

Training and Competence

OSHJ-GL-08

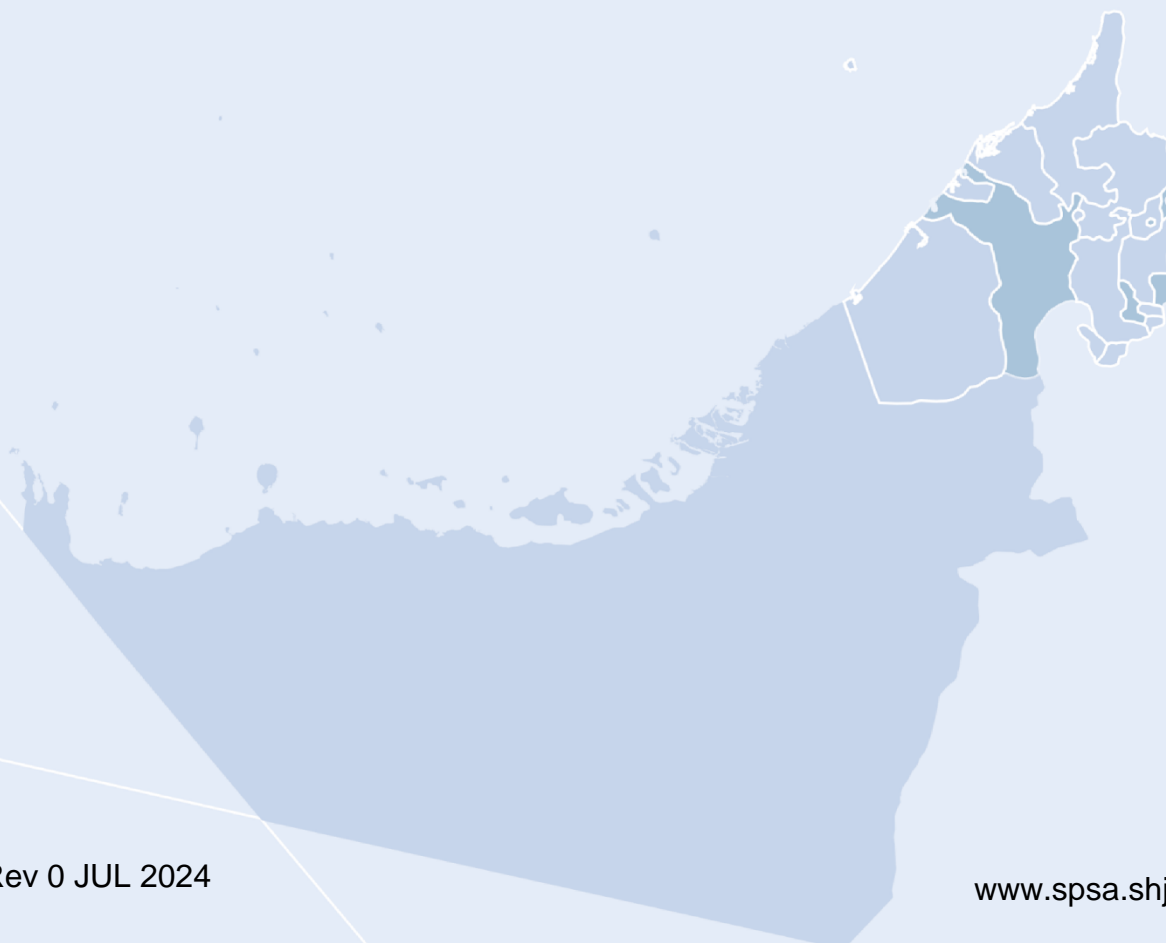


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1 Introduction

Training is a process that aims to provide employees with knowledge and skills to perform their work safely and without risks to health. All entities should have appropriate safety and health training arrangements to ensure that employees are competent to perform routine and non-routine work activities safely through the provision of adequate instruction, information, supervision and training.

All training should be in a form, manner and language that is understood by employees and must include significant hazards identified within the workplace and how to prevent injuries and disease.

2 Purpose and Scope

This Guideline document has been developed to provide information to entities to assist them in complying with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health System in Sharjah.

To achieve compliance in the Emirate of Sharjah, all entities are required to demonstrate a standard of compliance which is equal to or higher than the minimum acceptable requirements outlined in this Guideline document.

3 Definitions and Abbreviations

Entities:	Government Entities: Government departments, authorities or establishments and the like in the Emirate. Private Entities: Establishments, companies, enterprises and economic activities operating in the Emirate in general.
Risk:	Is the combination of likelihood of the hazard causing the loss and the severity of that loss (consequences).
Risk Assessment:	The systematic identification of workplace hazards and evaluation of the risks associated. This process takes existing control measures into account and identifies and recommends further control measures where required.
Hazard:	Anything that has the potential to cause harm or loss (injury, disease, ill-health, property damage etc).
OSH:	Occupational Safety and Health.
Competence:	The combination of training, skills, experience and knowledge that a person has and their ability to apply all of them to perform their work.
Training:	The act of teaching a person a particular skill or type of behaviour.
Safety Training:	Safety training describes the set of activities aimed at providing employees with the knowledge and skills to perform their duties safely, effectively and without risk to their health.

4 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Entity Responsibilities

- Assess the capabilities, training, knowledge and experience of employees;
- Identify the training requirements/needs for the employees in accordance with the nature and risk of the work;
- Providing employees with OSH responsibilities and adequate training to conduct their responsibilities effectively;
- Ensuring that employees are aware of the significant hazards in the workplace, are adequately trained and competent to conduct work activities without risk to themselves and/or others;
- Ensuring the provision of work related training, at no expense to employees;
- Ensuring that new employees receive safety and health induction training in how to perform their work activities safely, including emergency arrangements for first aid, fire and evacuation;
- Ensuring that employees changing jobs or taking on extra responsibilities receive training on any new safety and health implications;
- Consulting with employees on their training requirements.

4.2 Employee Responsibilities

- Cooperate with the entity and receive safety information, instruction, supervision and training;
- Inform the entity of any OSH training needs.

5 Guidelines

OSH training describes the set of activities aimed at providing employees with the knowledge and skills to perform their duties safely, effectively and without risk to health.

Providing safety and health information and training will assist the entity to:

- Ensure that employees know how to work safely and without risks to health;
- Develop a positive safety and health culture, where safe and healthy working becomes second nature to everyone;
- Find additional ways to improve the management of safety and health;
- Meet legal requirements to protect the safety and health of employees.

Benefits of effective training, include but not limited to:

- Contributing towards employee competency;
- Helping to reduce the number of incidents and ill health;
- Helping to reduce the financial costs of injuries and occupational ill health.

5.1 Undertaking a Training Needs Analysis

A training needs analysis is a business process to determine all the training that employees will need in a set amount of time to improve their work performance, including how to perform their work activities safely and without risk to their health.

A training needs analysis reviews the progress of the entity training and development programme and helps to pinpoint knowledge gaps that need to be filled, to enable the entity to set priorities and create a learning and development strategy.

The entity should consider the following factors to conduct a training needs analysis, including but not limited to:

- Identify the skills and knowledge needed for employees to conduct their work activities without risk to their safety and health. Compare these needs against the employee's current skills and knowledge and identify the gaps;
- Review records of incidents, injuries and cases of ill health and identify areas where training is required;
- Review risk assessments to assess where training has been identified as a factor in controlling risks;
- Consider awareness training needs for everyone, including directors, managers and supervisors;
- The training needs of new employees;
- The training needs of existing employees;
- Employees requiring refresher training;
- Legal requirements for training.

5.1.1 Identify the Purpose of the Training

The entity should identify the purpose of the training and consider the following factors, including but not limited to;

- Legal requirements to conduct specific training;
- Contractual agreements requiring the entity to conduct training;
- The expected outcomes of the training.

5.1.2 Decide the Learning Objectives and Outcomes

The entity should ensure there are clearly defined learning objectives and goals, and then decide on the skill sets necessary to reach these required outcomes. Learning objectives are a list of things that employees must be able to do after the training is completed. Once the learning objectives have been created, develop training content that covers the objectives.

5.2 Determine the Training Methods

There are different ways of delivering training, it can be done internally within an entity or externally by a third party. The main types of training methods that could assist an entity in deciding what type of training to choose, including but not limited to:

- Providing information or instruction;
- Coaching or on-the-job training;
- Training in the classroom;
- Open and distance learning;
- In groups or individually;
- Computer based or interactive learning.

5.2.1 Induction

Induction training should be offered to new employees when they join an entity, including but not limited to:

- A tour of the premises;
- Relevant safety and health information;
- Specific training on any duties/skills required to do their work activities safely and without risk to health;
- Entity policies, such as how to report incidents;
- Emergency procedures;
- Introduction to colleagues.

Advantages	Disadvantages
The employee should settle quickly into the job.	Could be too much information to receive in 1 training session.
The employee will be made aware of important safety and health issues before starting the job.	If not adequately delivered it could be run too quickly and without input from others.
The employee will understand who the main personnel in the entity are.	Takes time and could reduce output.

5.2.2 On-the-job training (Internal)

On-the-job training is training that is undertaken in the employees' place of work. There are different types of on-the-job training which an entity can choose from, including but not limited to:

Demonstration – Where an employee watches a task or a particular process being carried out by someone else and then attempts the task/process themselves.

Shadowing – Where an employee observes another employee, that is more competent than them, working to gain a better understanding of how they do their job.

Coaching – Where an experienced member of staff will work through a task step-by-step with an employee. The experienced member of staff or ‘coach’ will support the employee through the learning process by passing on their knowledge and skills.

Job rotation – Where an employee is given the opportunity to rotate or move through different jobs within the entity to acquire a range of skills from each department or work role.

Classroom – An entity could utilise internal employees to run classroom training for a group of other employees. If this option is considered, the entity should ensure that those who are running internal training have adequate skills and resources to do so and that the training material is adequately prepared and developed.

Provision of information and instructions – This is a process where employees are provided with information and instruction, without the need for demonstration or formal training.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Training is specific to the needs of the entity.	Quality of training may not be adequate.
Work is not interrupted by an employee attending training courses, with the exclusion of class room training.	May pick up bad habits from other employees.
May be cheaper as internal training does not need to be paid for.	Concentration may be poor due to work interruptions.

5.2.3 External Training

External training is sometimes referred to as off-the-job training. This training is conducted by specific training providers and can take place at many locations such as colleges, training centres or online.

When selecting the external training provider it is important to identify whether the training required for work activities needs to be accredited or not. Accredited courses are courses that are developed to a specific minimum standard that is either approved by the relevant authority in the Emirate of Sharjah and/or the industry.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Higher quality training usually delivered by experts.	The cost of external training courses may be high.
Higher levels of concentration due to less interruptions.	Time consuming due to time being spent away from the place of work.

5.3 Training Matrix

An entity that has employees that require different levels of skills and knowledge, should develop a training matrix. A training matrix is a tool that can be used to track employees’ training, skills and knowledge levels within the entity. SPSA requires the entity to develop a training matrix that can identify employee’s existing skills and knowledge, in addition to the needed skills and knowledge to help to provide a clear path for progress towards the employee’s desired competency level.

The entity training matrix should contain the following information, including but not limited to:

- The required training courses for each position;
- The frequency of training required;
- Planned dates of the training and estimated completion dates;
- Whether the training is internal or external;
- Whether the training is accredited or non-accredited;
- Expiry dates of accredited courses.

5.4 Delivery of the Training

The entity must ensure training information is delivered in a language and format that the attendees will easily understand. The trainer should use a variety of training methods to deliver the training material. Prior to the delivery of the training, ensure the trainer has had sufficient time to prepare themselves, their resources and the venue.

The training delivery should, including but not limited to:

- Meet the needs of the employees attending;
- Be delivered in a language that employees understand;
- Be suitable for employees with poor literacy skills;
- Be adapted for persons of determination.

5.5 Evaluation of the Training

The entity must evaluate the objectives/effectiveness of the training and record the following information, including but not limited to:

- Employees understand the training delivered;
- Employees acquired sufficient knowledge and skills to work safely and without risk to health;
- The skills and knowledge acquired by employees are being applied in the workplace;
- Assessing feedback from line managers and employees who attended the training;
- There are improvements in the entity's safety and health performance;
- Identifying any further information and/or training that is required;
- Identifying areas for improvement in training materials.

5.6 Refresher Training

The entity shall conduct refresher training for the employees periodically, including but not limited to:

- Where training certification has expired;

- Where identified as part of a training needs analysis;
- Where risk assessment findings identify training as a measure to control risks;
- Legal requirements;
- Where the findings of an incident investigation recommend refresher training.

5.7 Record Keeping

The entity must retain the record of the training of the employees. Keeping accurate training records for employees will assist in effective management of training. This information can assist with appraisals, opportunities, recruitment and training; it could even play a role in making strategic operational decisions. An entity may be audited by SPSA and/or a regulatory authority and they will expect training records to comply with their inspection criteria. Training records should contain the following information, including but not limited to:

- Full name;
- Emirates ID number;
- Employee ID number;
- Full name of awarding body;
- Full name of the training centre;
- Full name of the training course;
- Date and expiry of the training certificate or award.

7 Document Amendment Record

TITLE	Training and Competence		
DOCUMENT AMENDMENT RECORD			
Version	Revision Date	Amendment Details	Pages Affected
1	15 SEP 2021	New Document	N/A
2	04 JUL 2024	The document code was changed from OSHJ-GL-26 to OSHJ-GL-08.	
2	04 JUL 2024	Checklist Added	16

APPENDIX 1. Example of an Employee Training Record

Example of an Employee Training Record

Details of Employee	
Name	
Title and Position	
Emirates ID No.	
Telephone No.	
Email	

Training Course	Training Centre (If applicable)	Awarding Body	Course Start and Completion Dates	Expiry Date of Training Certificate or Award

APPENDIX 2. Example of a Training Register

APPENDIX 3. Checklist

The checklist is used by Prevention and Safety Authority to monitor compliance levels during audit and inspection operations; it is not intended for use by government entities or private establishments.

Every code of practice or guideline published by the Prevention and Safety Authority within the Sharjah occupational safety and health system contains requirements that employers in the Emirate of Sharjah must comply with. Each manual includes an inspection checklist that summarizes the essential items used by the SPSA auditor to verify that government entities or private establishments comply with the manual's requirements. Auditors can add additional essential items as necessary. The inspection checklist also includes a manual reference for each essential item, as well as a sample of acceptable compliance evidence for each item. The SPSA's auditor may request additional compliance evidence based on the item's condition, as well as the severity and potential impact of non-compliance.

The SPSA's auditor uses the inspection checklist to provide a comprehensive report on the entity's status. We will use the same checklist to monitor manual standard violations. Non-compliance with these standards constitutes a violation of Executive Council Resolution No. 15 of 2021 regarding the Sharjah Occupational Safety and Health System. If the SPSA's auditor detects non-compliance, they can issue violations based on the approved violation list.

In this manual, the SPSA provides information and standards that employers conducting activities in the Emirate of Sharjah must adhere to. This is to ensure the safety of workers, property, and the environment. Adhering to the requirements of this manual helps improve the level of occupational safety and health at the workplace, and it shields private establishments from potential violations or financial penalties for non-compliance.

The Emirate of Sharjah's Executive Council Resolution stipulates that employers must exercise due diligence to ensure the safety and health of workers, contractors, visitors, and all those affected by the employer's activities. To avoid non-compliance, employers must ensure adherence to the Sharjah Occupational Safety and Health System requirements. Entities should develop their procedures and inspection checklists according to their activities, nature of work, and risk level.

Depending on recorded or reported incidents, and as necessary, the SPSA may amend the requirements in this manual. As a result, the attached inspection checklist may change. Occupational safety and health practitioners must stay up-to-date on published standards and any changes to the inspection checklist attached to each manual

Audit/Inspection Checklist

Code Title	Training and competence	Code No.	OSHJ-GL-08	Rev. No.	2.0
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Sr.	Checklist Item	Clause in the Code	Acceptable means of compliance
1.	Is the purpose, objective, and goal of the training identified?	5.1: Identify the Purpose of the Training	– Check training plan document.
2.	Is the training material formatted in understandable language?	5.1.2: Decide the Learning Objectives and Outcomes	– check training materials check trainer qualifications/CV
3.	Is there an evaluation of the objectives/effectiveness of the training?	5.4 : Delivery of the Training	– check OSH training records/certificate
4.	Is there a refresher training conducted for the employees and retained?	5.5, 5.7: Evaluation of the Training, record keeping	– check OSH training records/certificate