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Circular NI OSR 2020-2
Oct 2020

****EXTENDED TO JUNE 30th 2021****

Training during global health pandemic.

Remote Learning Endorsement to Certificate of Accreditation

UK OPRED OPEP Level 2,3,4 Courses

UK MCA Courses 1,2,3,4,5 Inc. Ports

To all NI accredited oil spill response training providers who are members of the UK Scheme

The NI are able to offer, on successful application, an endorsement to the centre's "Certificate of Accreditation" to temporarily permit training via remote learning for their courses accredited.

In enabling this the NI recognises that:-

- a) Training providers may wish to temporarily deliver UK OSR courses, in part, by remote learning in lieu of classroom methods that are currently not possible due to the global pandemic.
- b) The full syllabus of the UK courses cannot be 100% remote as.
 - a. MCA Levels 1, 2,3,4,5 require interactive group work and practical work involving hands on equipment that cannot be done remotely.
 - b. OPEP Levels 3 and 4 requires significant group response simulation exercises and interactive work that cannot effectively be done remotely.

The endorsement is subject to the following conditions:-

- a) The Centre's endorsement is initially for a period until **March 31st, 2021**, or such other date as may be determined by The Nautical Institute and is being granted solely to mitigate the effects of the global pandemic. Those centres due normal re-accreditation during the period will still have to seek re-accreditation at their usual time.
- b) Certificates issued by Centres using remote learning must be endorsed as such.
- c) It must make it clear, via Certificate endorsement and joining information to students, that in the cases of MCA levels 1(operator) 2,3,4,5 (inc Ports) and OPEP Levels 3,4, the full certification will only be achieved when essential practical or simulation exercises have been subsequently completed in a classroom environment. For example, this could be done by issuing Certificates in 2 parts or freezing a certificate issue until all components of the course have been



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fully completed. Restrictions due to pandemic are not clear at the moment so there is no absolute time limit other than completion of courses should be done within 6 months of Covid restrictions to classroom training being lifted

- d) The centre is to make an application to the NI for the endorsement. The application should include:
- a. Name of course(s) to be delivered
 - b. Details of the instructors to be used for the remote learning
 - c. Detail of how user identity can be validated
 - d. Details of how learning materials will be provided to the learner
 - e. Details of the delivery methodology including the name of the on-line learning platforms proposed. (must be able to allow QnA's and attendance monitoring)
 - f. Details of the required equipment needed by the trainee in the remote location
 - g. A template of the Certificate to be issued
 - h. Details of how testing will be done to assure knowledge retention. (Especially important prior to when the classroom element is undertaken)
 - i. Draft of the text sent to students explaining the course delivery and certification strategy

On receipt of the application (send to bernie.bennett@nautinst.org) the NI will confirm the endorsement via a letter, subject to any requirements. The NI would require to be sent a course invitation so that validation can be carried out. The Endorsement can be withdrawn at any time.

Certificates to delegates issued under this scheme will be recognised by either MCA or OPRED and allow holders to legally hold the relevant post in a response organisation as determined by the certification requirements in any approved OPEP or Oil Spill Contingency Plan

The will be no charge for the endorsement under this global pandemic scheme

The temporary endorsement programme will be reviewed in March 2021

Full blended learning packages.

Nothing in the global pandemic temporary endorsement programme described herein prevents the Centre applying to run their courses by blended learning packages in the longer (non-covid) term This has always been an option. Centres can submit detailed proposals for blended learning packages for the delivery of MCA and OPRED OSR courses. These would count as additional courses and incur a fee as such.

For further information or queries please contact

Bernie Bennett, OSR Accrediation Scheme Manager at bernie.bennett@nautinst.org



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