

## **BWEA Health & Safety Training Standards & Approvals February 2010**

### **Strategic Priority**

Investing in training and skills across the supply chain is perhaps the most important contribution we can make to enhancing safety and competence levels in our sector. Important building blocks to achieve this have already made. These include:

- The continued commitment by the BWEA Board to ensure that *"... Health & Safety is top priority..."* and that *"we will produce and promote common standards, guidance and training to assist in minimising the risks of incidents.";*
- The signing of the Skills Accord at BWEA 31 which made an explicit commitment to ensure that all *"... initiatives .... take explicit account of health, safety and wellbeing issues both collectively but also the specific needs of individuals"* and that *"... everyone strives to the development of a positive health and safety culture as part of every initiative or education program..."*; and
- An endorsement by the Board that a strategic priority for 2010 must be to ensure *"... progress of training and training needs in consultation with members & key stakeholders"*.

### **Recent changes**

In order to demonstrate our commitment to these priorities BWEA took control of the standards and approvals protocols for all BWEA accredited courses with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

The decision was taken in order for us to give greater clarity and direction with respect to training and standards in the renewable power sector. It is also opportune in view of our re-branding as a trade association and the even greater priority being given to health and safety. The rapid growth we expect the sector to go through in the coming years will require us to provide the training and skills necessary for current and future generations of workers in our sector.

### **Status of standards and approvals**

In order to provide both clarity and confidence in the current standards and approval process we can confirm that:

- These changes do not affect the accreditation status of existing course providers; and
- The certification status of all delegates who have met the assessment criteria of the approved course provider and the applicable training standard continues without any change.

All approved training providers have been informed of the revised arrangements.

## **Actions in 2010**

Due to the priority being given to training, significant time and resources have been committed by BWEA for 2010 and beyond. These should allow us in partnership with members and key stakeholders to make the progress we need. More detailed plans and initiatives will develop as we go forward, but the areas we have already committed to include:

- The appointment of a dedicated Health and Safety Training Manager (Applications closed on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010);
- Interim approvals arrangements to process live applications from potential course providers;
- Issuing revised Work at Height & Rescue and Marine Survival standards for consultation and subsequent approval;
- Consultation and industry agreement on a new accreditation and approvals system;
- Scoping and development of a “basic competence/passport” type standard to ensure consistent minimum safety skills and knowledge and assessing the suitability and applicability of existing schemes; and
- Working in partnership in the development of the new apprenticeships framework and related initiatives (via BWEA Skills & Education Strategy Group) to ensure that health and safety issues are adequately addressed.

## **Members and Key Stakeholders Involvement**

Although these are exciting times for the industry we also acknowledge that the commitments we have made will require the full support of members and key stakeholders. We therefore welcome your comments and support in making sure that we deliver the safe and competent workforce we will need.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact either:

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