



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2005

RABQSA International closes the 'gap'!

RABQSA International (RABQSA) has today announced that the RABQSA Training Services Division has designed and developed the knowledge based competency profile to bridge the 'gap' in knowledge competence between the current Training Course Certification (TCC) and the recently introduced Training Provider and Examiner Certification Scheme (TPECS).

Currently TCC does not satisfy the knowledge based competency requirements of the new accredited (ISO/IEC17024:2003) personnel certification schemes in QMS, EMS, OHS and Food Safety Management Systems Auditing.

"Following independent analysis and comparison of the competency requirements of TPECS to TCC, we have determined the list of competencies that will need to be examined in order to recognize the TCC Certificate of Successful Completion as meeting the competency criteria for the accredited schemes", said Shanya Salamaca, Manager Training Certification Services.

"With the development of an e-based examination offered via the RABQSA web site, graduates from auditor training courses certified under TCC will be able to complete the 'gap' examination and, assuming successful completion, meet the knowledge requirement for accredited certification" said Salamaca.

The gap examination design process relied heavily on input from the RABQSA-certified Training Providers. The examination will be available on the RABQSA web site in early May 2005. Note the 'gap' examination will only be recognized for TCC courses completed prior to 31 December 2006. From 1 January 2007, all Training Providers seeking recognition of their Certificates of Attainment will need to be certified under TPECS.

For further information regarding RABQSA – 'Gap' Examination, or details on TCC and TPECS, please contact Ms. Shanya Salamaca on ssalamaca@rabqsa.com - 888-722-2440 or +1-414-272-3937 x7823

RABQSA International, a non-profit (not-for-profit) organization, is one of the world's leading certification organizations for the provision of accredited personnel and training certification, and related professional development services worldwide. A wide variety of organizations employ our certified persons for the purposes of improving business performance.



GAP EXAMINATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. How do I know if I need to take the gap examination?** If you are applying for certification in one of the RABQSA accredited certification schemes and you do not have a certificate of attainment from a training provider for the knowledge competencies (e.g., RABQSA-QM), but have successfully completed an RABQSA-certified auditor training course, you will need to take the gap examination.

- 2. I'm applying for certification in an accredited certification scheme. What gap examination(s) do I need to take?** Please refer to the chart below to determine the gap examinations that are applicable to you.

- 3. Is there a fee to take the gap examination?** No.

- 4. How do I access the gap examination?** Once you have applied for a grade in an accredited certification scheme, an RABQSA examiner will forward you the information on how to complete the gap examination.

- 5. Can I take the gap examination if I have not applied for certification?** No.

- 6. Are there any knowledge competencies that do not require a gap examination?** All currently-certified RABQSA auditors are considered to have met the knowledge competency requirements for TPECS Competency Unit RABQSA-AU for the ISO 17024-accredited schemes (QMS, EMS, OHS, FS). This also applies to all persons who are not currently certified, but have received a certificate of successful completion from an RAB, QSA, IRCA or RABQSA auditor training course within the past 3 years.

- 7. I am not currently certified, and my lead auditor training course certificate expired last year. Can I still use it and the gap examination to apply for certification in the accredited scheme?** No.

- 8. I'm applying for certification in the non-accredited scheme, does the gap examination apply to me?** No, the gap examination applies to the accredited certification schemes only.

- 9. How do I know if I've passed?** You will receive an electronic certificate of attainment from RABQSA that identifies the knowledge competencies you have demonstrated.



GAP EXAMINATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

10. If I don't pass, can I take it again? If so, how many times will I be allowed to take it? Yes, you may take it again, and you will be allowed a total of three attempts to reach the required level of performance. If you are not successful on the third attempt, RABQSA staff will contact you to determine what your options are.

11. Who marks the gap examinations? The examinations are marked by RABQSA staff using a well-defined marker's guide. The examinations and marker's guides have been designed to minimize the subjectivity of the examination process.

GAP EXAMINATIONS REQUIRED BY GRADE PER SCHEME

Grade	QMS	EMS	OHS	FS
Provisional	RABQSA-QM	RABQSA-EM	RABQSA-OH	RABQSA-FS
Auditor	RABQSA-QM	RABQSA-EM	RABQSA-OH	RABQSA-FS
Principal	RABQSA-QM	RABQSA-EM	RABQSA-OH	RABQSA-FS
Lead	RABQSA-QM; RABQSA-TL	RABQSA-EM; RABQSA-TL	RABQSA-OH; RABQSA-TL	RABQSA-FS; RABQSA-TL
Business Improvement	RABQSA-QM; RABQSA-TL	RABQSA-EM; RABQSA-TL	RABQSA-OH; RABQSA-TL	RABQSA-FS; RABQSA-TL