



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**  
Resources Safety

## **Approval of registered training organisations to provide shotfirer courses – guide**

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Level 1, 303 Sevenoaks Street (cnr Grose Ave), Cannington WA 6107  
Postal address: Mineral House, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004  
Telephone: (08) 9358 8002 Facsimile: (08) 9358 8000  
ResourcesSafety@dmp.wa.gov.au  
www.dmp.wa.gov.au www.wa.gov.au

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## Introduction

On 18 May 2010, the Australian Forum of Explosives Regulators (AFER) agreed upon the Resources and Infrastructure Industry Training Package units of competency for blasting (RIIBLA). These units of competency will be the basis for shotfirer training throughout Australia. The RIIBLA units of competency are prepared by Skills DMC, the national Industry Skills Council for the Resources and Infrastructure sectors. It was also agreed that shotfirers should be assessed against these competencies every five years.

## RIIBLA competencies

Shotfirer training courses will need to include the following Skills DMC RIIBLA competencies for the relevant shotfiring applications.

Skills DMC RIIBLA Competencies	
Application	Competencies
For all surface operations outside of town boundaries	RIIBLA205A – Store, handle and transport explosives RIIBLA301A – Conduct surface shotfiring operations RIIBLA305A – Conduct secondary blasting
For all surface operations inside <i>and</i> outside of town boundaries	RIIBLA205A – Store, handle and transport explosives RIIBLA301A – Conduct surface shotfiring operations RIIBLA305A – Conduct secondary blasting RIIBLA402A – Monitor and control the effects of blasting on the environment
For all underground operations except underground coal operations	RIIBLA205A – Store, handle and transport explosives RIIBLA303A – Conduct underground development shotfiring RIIBLA304A – Conduct underground production shotfiring RIIBLA305A – Conduct secondary blasting
For all underground coal operations	RIIBLA205A – Store, handle and transport explosives RIIBLA302A – Conduct shotfiring operations in underground coal mines RIIBLA305A – Conduct secondary blasting

Supporting information for the RIIBLA shotfirer training package is available from SkillsDMC at [www.skillsdmc.com.au](http://www.skillsdmc.com.au)

## Implementation

Resources Safety will adopt this new arrangement under regulation 14 of the Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007. As of 1 November 2011, Resources Safety will only accept statements of attainment from course providers that are Registered Training Organisations (RTO) accredited for the required units of competency.

Before the 1 November 2011 deadline, shotfirer training course providers need to obtain accreditation from the Training and Accreditation Council WA (TAC) as an RTO to deliver the agreed RIIBLA units of competency. As the process for becoming an RTO will take several months, Resources Safety strongly encourages course providers to apply for accreditation as soon as possible.

Shotfirers will need to be reassessed against the agreed RIIBLA competencies every five years for licensing renewal purposes. The dangerous goods safety legislation is being amended to change the current three-year renewal process to a five-year requirement.

## Current arrangements

The shotfirer training course providers listed on the Resources Safety website in the dangerous goods safety guidance section are currently recognised by Resources Safety as providing adequate shotfirer training and this arrangement will remain in place until 1 November 2011.

Course providers accredited by TAC to deliver the agreed RIIBLA competencies will be indicated on the list as they become accredited. After 1 November 2011, course providers not accredited by TAC to deliver the agreed competencies will be removed from the list and will no longer be recognised by Resources Safety for shotfirer training purposes.

## Approval process

Training organisations seeking TAC accreditation to deliver the Skills DMC RIIBLA shotfirer training package must apply directly to TAC. Accreditation with TAC involves an initial audit of the course to ensure it follows Australian Quality Training Framework principles. Course providers will need to demonstrate that they have the resources and ability to deliver the RIIBLA units of competency. Further information is available at [www.tac.wa.gov.au](http://www.tac.wa.gov.au)

Courses will need to include a suitable theoretical examination and a practical component as part of the assessment package. Trainers require a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and a valid shotfiring licence with at least three years of shotfiring experience.

## Transitional arrangements

Training course providers should begin offering the new training as soon as possible, and are requested to remind all trainees that licence applications based on the old courses will not be acceptable to Resources Safety from 1 November 2011.

After 1 November 2011, all current shotfirers will need to be re-assessed against the agreed competencies six months before their licences expire. This assessment should be relatively straightforward for practising shotfirers because it can be partly based on recognised prior learning principles.

## Shotfirer licences

From 1 November 2011, new shotfirer licences will have conditions indicating the general types of shotfiring that the applicant will be allowed to conduct. These conditions are as follows:

- all surface operations outside of town boundaries
- all surface operations inside and outside of town boundaries
- all underground operations except underground coal operations
- all underground coal operations.

*Note: There will be some variations for applicants seeking licences through mutual recognition.*

Shotfirer licences will no longer reference specialty blasting such as down-well perforation blasting. For these activities, shotfirers are expected to have specialist training and equipment, and it will be the employer's responsibility to ensure people are properly trained and experienced for this work.

Any questions regarding the above can be directed to Resources Safety on (08) 9358 8001 or [rsdclientservices@dmp.wa.gov.au](mailto:rsdclientservices@dmp.wa.gov.au)