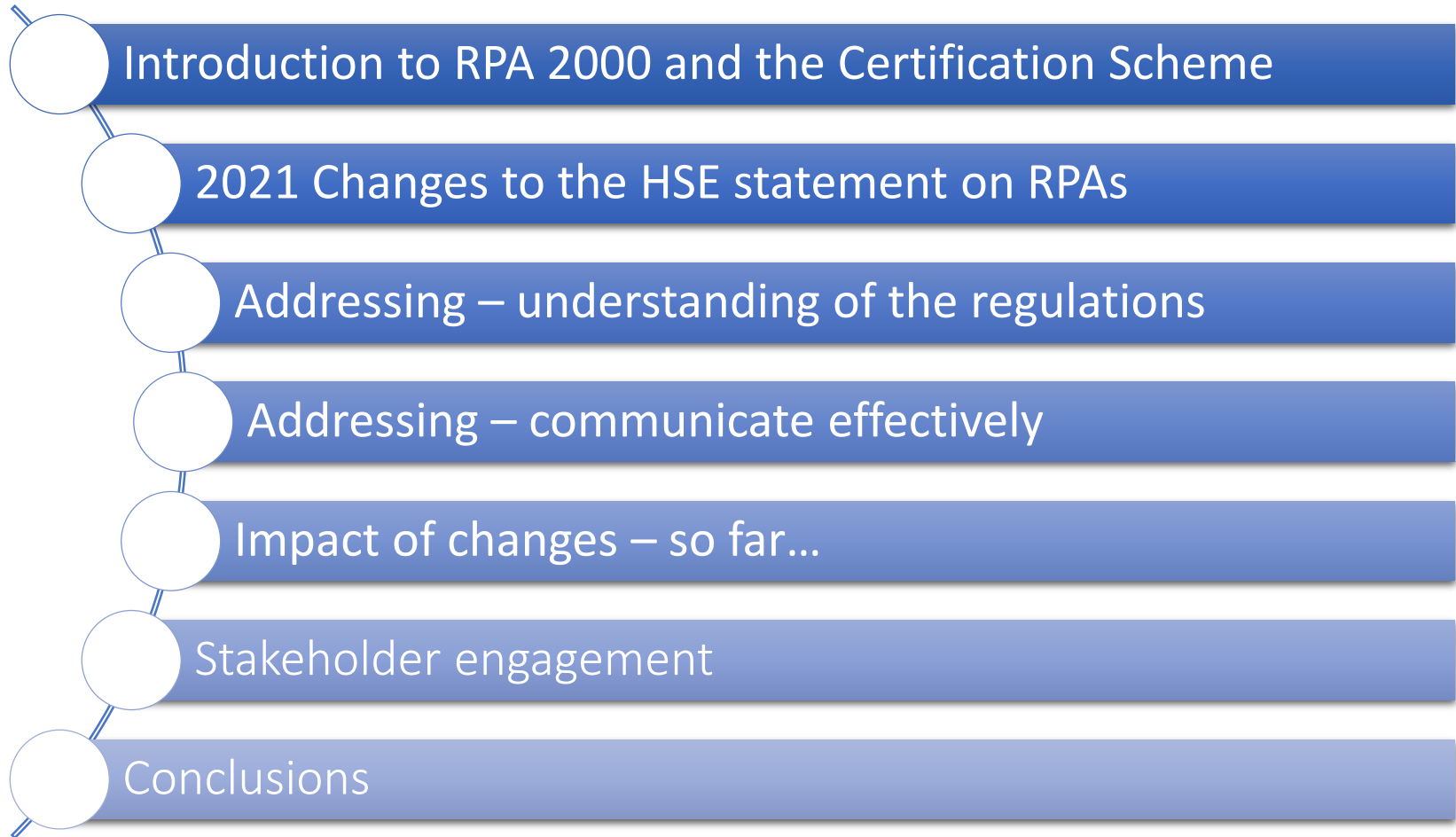


UK RPA Certification Scheme Changes

Mary Allan, RPA 2000 Board Member
Society for Radiological Protection (SRP) representative

The Disclaimer: the views and opinions expressed in this talk are those of the speaker and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of RPA 2000, SRP or AWE

Overview



Introduction



Work with ionising radiation

- 96/29 Euratom Directive
- Qualified expert
- IRR99
- RPA criteria / syllabus in HSE Statement
- System for explicit recognition of RPAs
- RPA 2000 set up
- Portfolio scheme to gain RPA Certification
- Portfolio scheme maintain RPA Certification



RPA2000

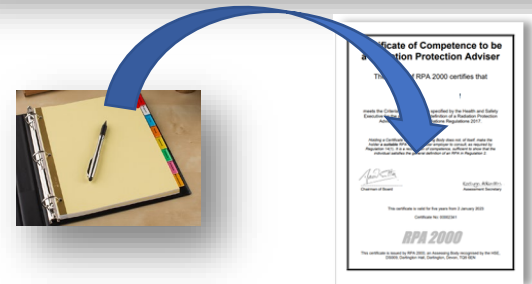
Certifying Competence for Radiation Protection Professionals

Welcome

RPA2000 is a non-profit making company, set up in the year 2000, solely for the purpose of certifying competence in ionising and non-ionising radiation protection practice.

Menu

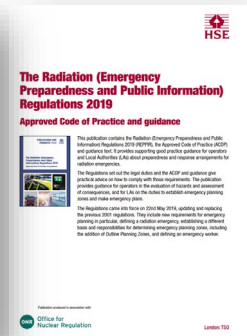
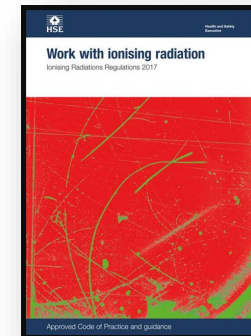
- [Welcome](#)
- [About RPA2000](#)
- [Fees](#)
- [Privacy Notice](#)



2021 – Change to HSE Statement

Changes to HSE Statement

- 2013/59 Euratom Directive – uplift to legislation
- IRR17 and REPIR 19
- HSE concerns – few cases of poor compliance
- HSE concluded, possible three weaknesses:
 - inadequate understanding of regulations – poor advice
 - inadequate ability to communicate appropriate advice
 - inadequacy of employer to follow given advice



Changes to the certification schemes

Weakness i) inadequate understanding of the regulations

- Knowledge
- General Awareness (GA)
- Basic Understanding (BA)
- Detailed Understanding (DU)
- Demonstration of application of radiation protection advice
- DU increased to 17 topics

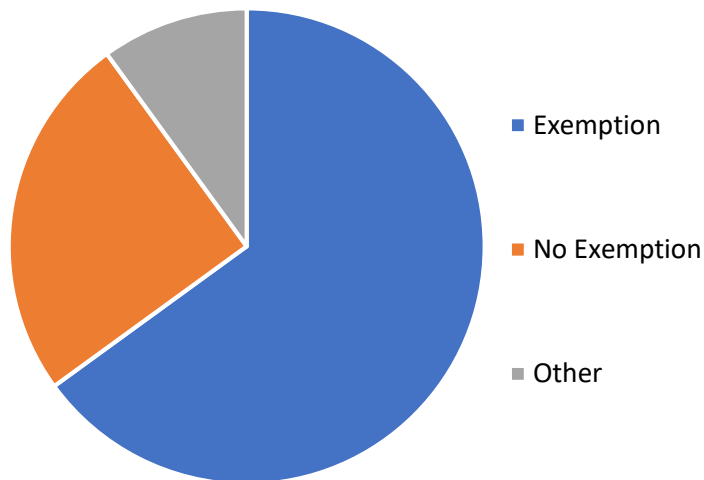
Evidence		DU Topic						
		Radiation Risk assessment	Local Rules	IRR Compliance Audit	Radiation monitoring programme	Shielding Calculation	Review of new facility plans	Personal dosimetry report
I.	Radiation Risk Assessment	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
II.	Notification, registration and consents	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
III.	ALARP / SFAIRP	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
IV.	Dose Limitation / Restriction of exposure	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
V.	Maintenance of engineering controls etc.	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
VI.	Contingency Planning	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
VII.	The role of the RPA	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
VIII.	The role of the RPS	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
IX.	Information, instruction and training	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
X.	Designation of areas	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
XI.	Local Rules	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
XII.	Personal dosimetry (external, real time, internal, biological etc.)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
XIII.	The classification of workers	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
XIV.	Radiation Monitoring	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
XV.	Accounting for radioactive materials	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
XVI.	Notification of occurrences	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
XVII.	Cooperation between employers	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

Figure 1: Showing how individual pieces of evidence can support more than one Detailed Understanding competence in the HSE syllabus.

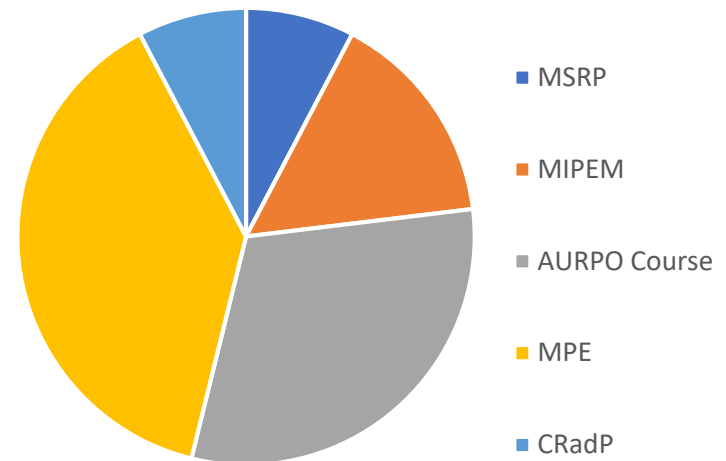
RPA Initial Applications - Exemptions

- HSE – introduced efficiencies for experienced practitioners in the field:
- Membership level; certification schemes; registration status; training courses

New Scheme - Exemptions



Route for Exemption



Since new scheme started (Jan 2022) – 20 x RPA Initial applications have been submitted

Over half have utilised the exemption option

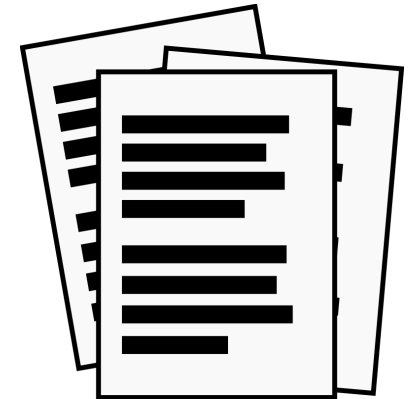
Routes for exemption are varied

Changes to the certification schemes

Weakness ii) inadequate ability of RPA to communicate appropriate advice



- Demonstration of Advice
- Initial RPA scheme – include how such evidence would lead to providing appropriate advice to the employer on compliance with the Ionising Radiations Regulations
- RPA renewal scheme – at least 25 points for Category 2 and submit examples of their work in providing radiation protection advice
- No longer able to recertificate on demonstration of training and study alone



Impact of the Changes – so far



Impact on timing and success? (limited data)

- Initial RPA scheme
 - Those requiring no additional information – quicker (about 75 days)
 - Average assessment is around 100 days regardless of exemption
- RPA renewal scheme
 - Average assessment is around 68 days (slightly longer)
 - Perhaps slight increase in numbers needing to supply extra information
 - 20% require extra information, which takes much longer
- Too early to see correlation with success under new schemes

Stakeholder Engagement

Timeline

- 2021
 - Statement published, September 2021
 - Information to stakeholders, October 2021
 - Updated assessment scheme published Dec 31st 2021
- 2022
 - Use of 2022 templates only
 - RPA 2000 assessor training, March / April 2022
 - SRP Workshop June 2022



IFALUUU
THE COMPETENCE CERTIFICATION SCHEMES

IFAL1
Applicable wef 01/01/22

RADATION PROTECTION ADVISER CERTIFICATION SCHEME

RPA1: Initial Application for RPA Certification

Notes:
The assessment process is designed to determine whether you can give appropriate advice on the regulations.
Before completing this form, please read document "DDA3: Instructions and Guidance for the

THE SOCIETY FOR
RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION
Annual Conference 2022

Llandudno | 14 - 16 June 2022

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 14 June 2022

07:15	SRP SK	
	Registration open from 09:30 - 10:00	
	Workshops - Theatre Auditorium	The Hall
10:00	RWA, RPA & LPA Portfolio Refresher Workshop Mary Allan (AWE)	←
11:00	The critical thinking toolbox Ben Dadds, Bureau Veritas (ROG Competition)	11:00 IRAT2 Workshop Christiana Dowds, Environment Agency (Please note that you will need to bring your own laptop with you if you wish to attend this workshop).
12:00	Lunch and Exhibition	

Conclusion

RPA assessor schemes have been uplifted to incorporate updated legislation and to address possible weaknesses

- Schemes are embedding within the community
 - Exemption option is popular but impact – not clear
 - Concept of exemption, and routes offered have been accepted
 - Assessment times slightly improved (those without need supplementary submissions)
 - RPA scheme is taking longer to embed successfully as a higher fraction are requiring further information
 - More engagement is required
-
- Thank you