

# SoBRA Accreditation- Perspectives from a Candidate and Scrutineer

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**Member of SoBRA's Accreditation Sub  
Committee**



**Recent SoBRA Accreditation Candidate  
RSoBRA (Controlled Waters, Permanent  
Gases)**

**ASoBRA (Human Health, Vapour Intrusion)**



**SoBRA Scrutineer**

# What will be covered?

- What is SoBRA and what does it do?
- What is SoBRA's accreditation scheme and how does it work?
- What is involved for a candidate applying for accreditation?
- What is a scrutineer looking for?

# What is SoBRA

- **The Society of Brownfield Risk Assessment (SoBRA)** has been established to support the growing number of professionals working in land contamination risk assessment
- Established in 2009 to improve technical knowledge in risk-based decision-making related to land contamination applications and enhance the professional status and profile of practitioners
- Seven conferences and workshops
- Not for profit
- Voluntary basis



# Accreditation Scheme - Overview

- Developed this registration scheme to recognise and reward the technical skills associated with land contamination risk assessment
- Demonstrate competency
- Integration with other Schemes
  - SoBRA scheme is a standalone scheme.
  - Consistent with the SiLC Land Condition Skills Development Framework & the Land Forum's National Land Quality Mark Scheme (as a risk assessor, not SQP)
- Two grades of accreditation are:
  - **Registered** as a risk assessor with SoBRA (RSoBRA)
  - **Fully Accredited** member of SoBRA (ASoBRA)

# SoBRA Register of Risk Assessors

- 2 tier scheme
- SoBRA Registered Risk Assessor (**RSoBRA**)
  - For those who undertake/review risk assessments without supervision
  - Competent at GQRA
- SoBRA Accredited Risk Assessor (**ASoBRA**)
  - For more senior staff
  - Competent at both GQRA and DQRA



# Registration

	Registration Prerequisites	Technical Skills Summary
Registered with SoBRA (RSoBRA)	Membership of relevant professional body is desirable but not essential	Core skills – broadly consistent with those practicing to GQRA
Fully Accredited member of SoBRA (ASoBRA)	1. Chartered status with relevant professional body; <u>or</u> in exceptional circumstances 2. Significant experience in field of expertise AND membership of a relevant professional body with code of ethics or conduct.	As for RSoBRA plus skills consistent with those practicing/ technically reviewing DQRA

# RSoBRA Grade

- Capable of undertaking and/or reviewing routine (GQRA) risk assessments without supervision
- More complex risk assessment situations are likely to require research and/or guidance from a more senior risk assessor
- Likely to meet the definition of “competent person” under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) in relation to Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment (GQRA)
- Likely to be able to “sign-off” or “approve” GQRAs under the Land Forum’s proposed National Land Quality Assurance Scheme

# ASoBRA Grade

- Thorough understanding of land contamination risk assessment
- Experience of carrying out and/or reviewing both GQRA and Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessments (DQRA)
- Likely to be senior staff who supervise others and review risk assessment reports
- May contribute to the development of risk assessment best practice
- Senior regulators with in-depth experience of providing detailed technical review of DQRA
- Likely to be able to “sign-off” or “approve” both GQRAs **and** DQRAs under the Land Forum’s proposed National Land Quality Assurance Scheme

# Practitioner Areas

- Practitioners likely to have expertise in different areas
- Applicants should indicate all practice areas for which they seek recognition and should ensure that the supporting evidence provides sufficient detail in relation to each of those fields.

- Human Health
- Vapour Intrusion
- Controlled Waters
- Permanent Gases
- Other (state below)



# Summary of Application Requirements

- Application Form and Fee
- Proof of Professional Membership
- Proof of Chartership or other evidence of 'significant experience\*' (ASoBRA Grade only)
- 2 page Curriculum Vitae
- Professional Report
- CPD record (last 3 years)
- 2 Referee statements (minimum)
- Interview

Standard forms provided by SoBRA for most of the submission elements

\* in exceptional circumstances only

# How do I apply?

WELCOME ABOUT US EVENTS RESOURCES MEMBERSHIP ACCREDITATION CONTACT Search ...

Home / Accreditation / Apply for accreditation

## Apply for accreditation

The two grades of registration are:

- [Registered as a Risk Assessor with SoBRA \(RSoBRA\)](#)
- [Fully Accredited Member of SoBRA \(ASoBRA\)](#)

To apply for SoBRA accreditation

1. Download the relevant application pack

Download  
**RSoBRA**  
application pack

Download  
**ASoBRA**  
application pack

2. Complete the supporting evidence documents in the application pack
3. Specify areas of expertise, attach evidence & [pay application fee](#)

Go to RSoBRA  
application page\*

Go to ASoBRA  
application page\*

4. Attend peer interview

### ACCREDITATION

- ▶ [Apply for accreditation](#)
  - RSoBRA application
  - ASoBRA application
- [Accreditation FAQs](#)
- [Register of SoBRA Risk Assessors](#)

### APPLICANT RESOURCES

- [Download RSoBRA application pack](#)
- [Download ASoBRA application pack](#)
- [Application & renewal fees](#)
- [Notes for applicants](#)
- [Notes for scrutineers](#)

# Candidate's Perspective



# Application Requirements-Application Form

- Decide which practitioner areas to go for
- Decide whether to apply for RSoBRA or ASoBRA for **each** practitioner area
  - Look closely at competencies for each grade (including additional information in Appendix)
  - Talk to people you work with (colleagues, clients, others who know your work, **especially** people you are asking to be referees)



# RSoBRA Competences

- R1. Adequate understanding of the relationship between the information retrieved as part of a desk study, site visit and walkover, and a preliminary risk assessment / site investigation design.
- R2. Ability to undertake a preliminary risk assessment, involving the evaluation of potential contaminants, pathways and receptors, and the identification of potential contaminant linkages, to include the development of an 'Initial Conceptual Site Model`.
- R3. Adequate understanding of the data requirements from the site investigation stage in order to undertake generic quantitative risk assessments (GQRA); and ability to work with /advise site investigation engineers at the scoping and design stage to ensure data collection is appropriate and adequate for risk assessment purposes.
- R4. Ability to check and analyse site investigation and other data relevant to a GQRA.
- R5. Ability to demonstrate familiarity with risk assessment approaches, techniques, models and processes and appropriate input parameters for the production of generic assessment criteria (GACs).
- R6. Ability to undertake GQRA, including development of a Conceptual Site Model, selection and application of appropriate GACs relevant to your practice area(s).
- R7. Ability to make recommendations based on the outcomes of a GQRA.
- R8. Ability to communicate risk in an effective way to non-technical interested parties.
- R9. Adequate level of awareness and understanding of the other areas of risk assessment that may not be features of the candidate's particular area of expertise, including their interactions.

# ASoBRA Competences

- A1. Ability to undertake a detailed quantitative risk assessment (DQRA).
- A2. Adequate understanding of the data requirements from a site investigation in order to undertake a DQRA.
- A3. Ability to derive site-specific assessment criteria (SSACs) or GACs from first principles using peer reviewed literature sources.
- A4. Demonstrate an understanding of the use of *Risk Evaluation* in the risk assessment process to help define assessment limitations and recommendations.
- A5. Ability to select appropriate methods/tools to undertake the DQRA and to understand and describe the limitations and basic assumptions of these.
- A6. Adequate level of awareness of the role and management of uncertainty in risk assessments including demonstrable understanding of the role of sensitivity and uncertainty analysis.
- A7. Adequate level of understanding of the way time impacts risk.
- A8. Adequate level of understanding of the legal, technical, social and environmental contexts of land contamination risk assessment.
- A9. Adequate level of understanding of the legislative regime pertinent to risk assessment within the country of work.

# Curriculum Vitae & CPD Record

- Take time to tailor existing CV to emphasise risk assessment
- CV needs to cover:
  - Qualifications from A-level stage onwards;
  - Membership details of professional bodies;
  - Brief description of career development and relevant project experience;
  - Area(s) of expertise and;
  - Summary of any relevant courses/training events
- Assemble all relevant CPD for last 3 years, ***with emphasis on risk assessment***
  - Includes independent reading, “on the job” learning, giving/receiving coaching & mentoring, webinars not just formal conferences and training courses

# Professional Report

- No more than 2,500 words!
- Intended to show your development as a risk assessor across your career
- Should include relevant project descriptions with clear explanation of your involvement and role (***may include as a reviewer, including in a regulatory capacity***) and **how this relates to the various skills criteria**
- Should reference non-project work which demonstrates relevant risk assessment skills and knowledge
- Must demonstrate competences for each practice area-refer to detailed guidance in Appendix B
- Conciseness and bullet points are your friends!

# Referee Statements

- All projects mentioned within Professional Report require sign off by referee with direct experience of your work on project (line manager/ project manager/ client/ regulator) except in exceptional circumstances
- Guidance stipulates referees sign off hard copy of report
  - Print off one version and circulate round referees in real life then scan or;
  - Send to first referee electronically to print off, scan and send back. Repeat; or
  - ***As a last resort***, send individual copies of report electronically to referees to scan and send back
- Therefore likely to be several referees (and hence referee statements), not just two!
- Allow time to assemble these-speak to likely referees early in application period

# The Interview

- Expect to be asked about any projects in your CV or Professional Report-make sure you refresh yourself about these in advance and have copies to hand;
- It's OK to be nervous!
- Remember-you will NOT get feedback on the day!

# Scrutineer's Perspective



# CV and CPD

- Chronological CV helps clarify career progression
- We do read CPD and look for evidence that applicant is keeping up to date with recent developments

# Professional Report

- Make sure it is more than a glorified CV-tell a short story about what **you** actually did for each project so it is clear that competence(s) have been met
- Make sure each competence is covered for each practice area, including “obvious” early “R” competences
- Use detail in Appendix B as a guide
- Make sure it is clear which competences are demonstrated for each project (list in brackets)
- Stick to the word limit!

# Interview

- Scrutineers need:
  - To confirm information in candidate application
  - To fill in any gaps in competences within submission
  - To decide for each practice area whether grade applied for is appropriate
  - To obtain evidence to support formal documented decision that candidate is competent for **every** competence for **every** practice area using criteria:
    - Ap = Appreciation, a general understanding
    - K = Knowledge, knowing how it should be done
    - E = Experience, actually performed, usually under supervision
    - C = Competence, able to perform without supervision and able to direct others
- Help them by answering all questions clearly-if you are not sure what they mean, ask!

# Final thoughts

- Previous application period closed on 31<sup>st</sup> October
- Next application period opens “early in 2017”
- This is a good time to start preparing application, talking to referees and mentors
- Remember to record today’s seminar as CPD!
- Good Luck!

# Thank You!

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