



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Reference Number: ST0714

Details of standard

This apprenticeship standard is currently in development and its contents are subject to change

Occupation summary

This occupation is found in the public sector, typically in local authorities, but also in third-party and private businesses. The majority will be employed in local government and in private industry although they may also carry out their duties in a wider range of settings including: central government, consultancies, the NHS, armed services, public health protection, not for profit businesses and charities. They will work in a range of departments in which they will apply their professional knowledge and skills on a range of areas, such as environmental protection, food safety, health and safety at work, housing standards and public health. This occupation could be based locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to act as advisers, educators, consultants and enforcement officers, enabling people to live and work in safe, healthy environments. By undertaking a risk-based approach, Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) will promote a safe and healthy environment for the public and businesses, through education and enforcement. For example, inspecting food premises and workplaces for food safety and health and safety compliance, monitoring air quality, undertaking emergency interventions, investigating food fraud, safety and noise control at large events, dealing with rogue landlords, investigating food poisoning outbreaks, licensing tattoo parlours and investigating accidents at work. They work in a range of environments and will spend much of their time out in the community with businesses and the public. They may have to work evenings and weekends to meet the job needs. EHPs may specialise in one of the following areas, or deal with them all:

- Environmental protection including noise, nuisance, air, water and land pollution
- Food safety: auditing, inspection and education
- Health and safety at work: auditing, inspection and education
- Private sector housing including standards: houses in multiple occupation (HMOs), licensing, inspecting
- Public health including infectious disease control, smoke free legislation
- Port health: sampling, inspecting and controlling imported foods
- Training eg. delivering food safety/health and safety courses/mentoring

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a variety of stakeholders including:

- the public
- clients
- local and/or national businesses
- elected members
- property owners
- local and national government agencies and departments
- partners, such as the police and fire service.

Typically working remotely or from an office base, EHPs will spend much of their time out in the community with businesses and the public. They work in a range of settings from residential situations to highly dangerous conditions, mainly in commercial and industrial settings. EHPs will work in situations where there is potential for conflict. They will provide expert, professional and technical advice to other council departments, external organisations, members of the public and businesses. They will attend council committees, courts of law, tribunals, public meetings etc. related to the prime objectives of the role.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for working independently with a high level of autonomy and as part of a wider team. EHPs will plan, organise and prioritise their own case load, typically reporting to a line manager. They will work largely unsupervised and will be expected to exercise initiative and professional judgement, often being required to make quick decisions. They will work to ensure that outcomes and objectives are achieved within desired timescales. They may be responsible for the following resources: safety equipment, sampling equipment, measuring equipment, photographic and video equipment and electronic equipment. This includes the management of any chains of evidence collected. They will also be responsible for sensitive and personal information. EHPs may be expected to supervise technical staff and students. EHPs should demonstrate a commitment to their own continuing professional development.

Typical job titles

Environmental Health Officer, Environmental Health Practitioner, Environmental Health Professional, Safety Auditor, Food Inspector, Housing Officer, Public Protection Officer

Entry requirements

Employers and universities will determine their own entry requirements; typically, this will be 3 A Levels or equivalent.

Occupation duties

Duty	Criteria for measuring performance	KSBs
Duty 1 Provide informed professional technical / specialist advice and guidance to a range of stakeholders on environmental health matters including health and safety, food safety, private sector housing, environmental protection and public health	Compliance with legislation; Effective communication	K1 K2 K3 K8 K22 S1 S7 S8 S16 S17 S19 B2 B3 B5 B6 B9
Duty 2 Communicate with a range	Effective communication	K1 K8 K22

of stakeholders using a range of methods and tools		S4 S5 S7 S17 S19 B3 B5 B6 B8 B9
Duty 3 Collaborate with partner agencies to ensure effective environmental health interventions	Compliance with legislation; Effective communication	K5 K8 K23 S5 S7 S17 S19 S23 B1 B3 B5 B8 B9
Duty 4 Inspect and audit premises, vehicles, processes etc and carry out other forms of intervention	Compliance with legislation; In line with policies, procedures and codes of practice	K4 K5 K6 K10 S2 S6 S8 S12 S13 S17 S21 B1 B5 B6 B7 B8 B9
Duty 5 Identify hazards, assess risks to human health and communicate solutions on a range of environmental health matters	Compliance with legislation; Effective communication	K10 K11 K14 K15 K17 K18 K19 S5 S6 S9 S13 S17 B5 B8
Duty 6 Lead investigations across the range of environmental health matters and take appropriate follow up action in line with statutory requirements	Compliance with legislation; In line with policies, procedures and codes of practice; Accuracy	K4 K5 K6 K8 K9 K10 K20 K24 S2 S8 S12 S19 S20 S21 S23 B5 B8
Duty 7 Obtain and analyse scientific data and interpret results in accordance with relevant standards to determine corrective action	Compliance with legislation; In line with policies, procedures and codes of practice; Accuracy	K5 K9 K21 K24 S9 S10 S11 S21 B5 B6
Duty 8 Identify instances of non-compliance with environmental health legislation and determine the most appropriate action which may include enforcement	Compliance with legislation; In line with policies, procedures and codes of practice	K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 S2 S5 S6 S7 S12 B3 B5 B6 B7 B8
Duty 9 Identify and investigate complaints relating to environmental health	Compliance with legislation; Effective communication	K4 K8 K13 K15 K23 K25 S2 S14 S19 B3 B5 B6 B7 B8 B9

Duty 10 Apply a range of analytical and problem-solving techniques to resolve environmental health issues	Accuracy; Successful resolution of environmental health issue	K1 K2 K3 K10 K25 S8 S10 B3 B5 B6 B7 B8
Duty 11 Assess, interpret, issue and monitor relevant licence and registration requirements including environmental permits	Compliance with legislation; In line with policies, procedures and codes of practice	K2 K7 S3 S19 S22 B3 B5 B6 B7 B8
Duty 12 Act as a consultee in relation to planning and licensing applications	Compliance with legislation; In line with policies, procedures and codes of practice; Accuracy	K7 K8 K9 K12 S1 S3 S4 S5 S6 S10 S13 B3 B5 B6 B7 B8
Duty 13 Act as an advocate for promoting and improving the health, safety and wellbeing of the public	Excellent interpersonal skills	K1 K3 K8 K16 K20 S15 S17 S19 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8 B9
Duty 14 Maintain accurate records and produce reports, including the preparation of evidence for court, where appropriate	Compliance with legislation; In line with policies, procedures and codes of practice; Accuracy	K2 K6 K9 K24 S13 S18 B3 B5 B6 B7 B8

KSBs

Knowledge

K1: The complex political and corporate environment in which the organisation operates and own role in this

K2: The legislative framework and technical application of relevant Acts, regulations, guidance and codes of practice eg. the Environment Act, Environmental Protection Act, the Health and Safety at Work Act, Public Health Acts, Building Act, Food Hygiene Regulations, Housing Acts, Police and Criminal Evidence Act, data protection legislation, anti-social behaviour legislation etc

K3: The role of the environmental health service in leading on and contributing to the wider public health agenda and the health, safety and wellbeing of local communities

K4: The procedures and practices involved with carrying out evidence and risk-based inspections, audits and investigations

K5: The full range of statutory and non-statutory interventions to control, mitigate and reduce risk

- K6:** The procedures and practices involved in taking a range of enforcement actions
- K7:** The procedures and practices involved with granting permits, licences and authorisations
- K8:** How to liaise and communicate appropriately with a variety of sources including clients, partner agencies, the public and the media
- K9:** The relevance and interpretation of complex/scientific reports, technical guidance, analytical data, research and other forms of evidence
- K10:** The concepts of hazard analysis and risk assessment and their practical application in environmental health
- K11:** Concepts relating to the natural world, its key biological and ecological systems and how this may affect and be affected by humans; sustainability of resources and their impact on climate and health
- K12:** The human world and communities; human made structures, industry and services
- K13:** How social, cultural, emotional and psychological factors influence environmental health and the health of the public
- K14:** Concepts of health and disease and how these are measured and assessed
- K15:** Environmental stressors and how they impact on different environments and communities
- K16:** The impact of lifestyle choices on the health of individuals and communities
- K17:** The principles of environmental microbiology
- K18:** Theories of epidemiology of a range of communicable and non-communicable diseases and their practical application in environmental health
- K19:** Anatomy and physiology and how human function can be affected by biological, toxicological and mechanical effects
- K20:** The concepts and principles of leadership and application to own practice
- K21:** A range of quantitative and qualitative data gathering methods and how to appraise and select the optimum method
- K22:** The limits of own scope of practice and when to seek advice from others
- K23:** Principles of safeguarding and how to apply them to self and others
- K24:** The principles of collecting evidence for monitoring, investigations and enforcement purposes including seizure and detention powers, formal sampling procedures and exhibit referencing
- K25:** Techniques to investigate and resolve complaints

Skills

- S1** Provide specialist, professional and technical environmental health advice and guidance to a range of stakeholders such as residents, businesses, property owners, government agencies and partners

- S2** Plan, undertake and lead inspections, audits and other forms of investigations across the breadth of environmental health matters
- S3** Evaluate applications and grant relevant licences and permits eg. environmental permits, HMOs, caravan sites, skin piercing, tattooists etc
- S4** Negotiate with and influence a range of stakeholders in relation to a range of environmental health matters
- S5** Identify, evaluate and communicate environmental health risks and risk management solutions to a range of stakeholders
- S6** Ensure all activities are undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation, guidance and codes of practice
- S7** Infer and apply a range of legislation related to environmental health, eg. the Environment Act, Environmental Protection Act, the Health and Safety at Work Act, Food Safety Act, Housing Act, Public Health Act, Police and Criminal Evidence Act, data protection legislation, anti-social behaviour legislation etc
- S8** Employ a range of research, analytical and problem-solving techniques to resolve environmental health issues through creative and critical thinking, devising practical solutions and applying problem solving strategies
- S9** Critically evaluate and analyse evidence and information
- S10** Formulate judgements and decisions based on the evidence available and applied knowledge eg. on acceptable levels of pollution emissions, water data, acceptable levels of noise etc
- S11** Manage objective measurement and analysis of scientific information to determine the appropriate course of action eg. noise measurement, air emissions etc
- S12** Appraise, implement and communicate relevant interventions eg. enforcement actions
- S13** Produce accurate records and reports and where appropriate, recommend interventions, including the collection and handling of evidence with a view towards legal proceedings
- S14** Assess and deal effectively with difficult and confrontational situations
- S15** Participate in health promotional activities in high priority environmental health areas eg. shisha, smoking, obesity, food safety etc
- S16** Implement effective decision making, exercising discretion, initiative and independence within the scope of own role
- S17** Communicate and influence effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders including spoken and written communication skills, presentation skills, giving advice and guidance / mediating / negotiating and persuading, handling private and sensitive information (eg. data protection)
- S18** Use a range of standard IT packages to undertake for example, word processing activities, produce reports and input / analyse data
- S19** Work as part of a multi-disciplinary and/or multi-organisational team and collaborate to achieve successful outcomes
- S20** Lead activities relating to environmental health matters

S21 Carry out sampling and collect evidence for monitoring, investigations and/or enforcement purposes in accordance with legislation and current guidance

S22 Examine and assess compliance with conditions

S23 Plan, organise and prioritise workload to meet deadlines

Behaviour

B1: Be positive, creative and innovative within complex environments in professional practice

B2: Be adaptive to a changing operational and political environment

B3: Be collaborative with a diverse range of stakeholders

B4: Be self-motivated and committed to leading own professional development

B5: Be assertive in appropriate situations to communicate and influence effectively

B6: Show discretion in professional practice

B7: Be resilient and self-aware

B8: Operate with dignity and respect, maintaining impartiality/fairness/equality

B9: Champion own organisation's values and goals

Qualifications

English and Maths qualifications

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the End-Point Assessment. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprenticeship's English and maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. A British Sign Language (BSL) qualification is an alternative to the English qualification for those whose primary language is BSL.

Other qualifications

Mandatory qualification 1: BSc (Hons) degree in Environmental Health/BSc (Hons) degree in Environmental Science

Level of qualification: 6 (integrated degree)

Professional recognition

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health / Membership

Additional details

Occupational Level: 6

Duration (months): 48

Review

This standard will be reviewed after three years.

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Version log

VERSION	DATE UPDATED	CHANGE	PREVIOUS VERSION
1	07/12/2018	Standard first published	Not available