

## Outdoors Higher Level National Occupational Standards (\*NOS)

### A SkillsActive Short Feasibility Project - *Invitation to Participate*

**SkillsActive**, is the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure & Learning, licensed by government. Amongst our responsibilities is that of developing and promoting National Occupational Standards where required in our industry sectors... one of which is the Outdoors.

#### The Project

Currently, the Expeditions & Exploration sub-sector does not have any specific NOS\* relating to it. This has implications for workforce development in the broad sense and specifically for qualification development. NOS are developed at the levels which relate to the jobs and functions in employment.

This is a short project which **aims to explore if there is a need to develop NOS for Expeditions & Exploration**. It will focus on the industry sub-sector, its organisations, jobs, functions and the levels of capability required to operate successfully, both now and into the future. It will take into account existing qualifications and standards. The outcome will be the recommendation of a simple 'yes' or 'no'. It is not about developing the NOS themselves – see below.

#### Project Outcome

The outcome of the project will be reported to the Qualification and Curriculum Authority, and its Scottish counterpart, SQA. If there is a recommendation for the actual development of NOS for the sub-sector, then this will be proposed to QCA/SQA as a project for next year.

#### \*What are National Occupational Standards?

“National occupational standards are statements of the skills, knowledge & understanding needed in employment & clearly define the outcomes of competent performance.”  
<http://www.qca.org.uk/2677.html>) NOS exist for almost every occupation in UK, and also in many other countries.

NOS are developed by SSCs with employer representatives on a UK-wide basis and inform the development of vocational qualifications. Qualifications must be mapped against the relevant NOS before they can be accredited on the national framework and publicly funded. NOS can also be used as the basis for a wide range of staff development and management topics.

NOS have changed significantly over the last ten years. They are now very accessible, shorter, easy to use with a much simplified structure and language. Existing standards are available on the SkillsActive site [www.skillsactive.com](http://www.skillsactive.com)

#### What is SkillsActive?

SkillsActive is the employer-led organisation licensed by government as the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for active leisure and learning.

Our brief is to lead the skills and productivity drive within the sport and recreation, health and fitness, playwork, the outdoors and caravan industries by:

- Influencing government and other powerful decision makers
- Promoting the image of the sector to the public
- Ensuring the quality of training and qualifications
- Helping people find the jobs and training they need
- Helping the industry attract and retain the right staff
- Attracting funding to meet employers' training needs