

## **BDA Audit – Multi-discipline Audit Update**

**The BDA is pleased to announce an update to the BDA audit following member feedback and discussions with the BDA Audit Steering Group. Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022, there has been an update to requirements for multiple drilling disciplines to appear on BDA audit cards. This policy change comes on the back of extensive member feedback and consultation with the BDA audit’s accreditation body.**

During the process of the BDA audit gaining accreditation from the Mineral Products Qualification Council (MPQC) in 2021, a policy was introduced whereby if a driller held a Vocational Qualification (VQ) in multiple drilling disciplines (i.e. rotary and dynamic sampling), a BDA auditor would have to physically see the driller operating using both disciplines within the same year for both to be listed on their BDA audit card. This was a requirement of the accreditation to ensure that ongoing competence could be physically witnessed in order to be assessed and audited. However, following feedback from the BDA membership concerning rising costs across the sector, this policy has been revisited in order to find an easier way of assessing and proving ongoing competence and immediately reducing ongoing costs to BDA members.

After consultation with BDA auditors (Callum Allardyce, Lee Allardyce, Philip Dainton and Andrew Frogley), the BDA audit management approached MPQC to determine if multi-discipline audits were feasible whilst maintaining the BDA audit’s crucial third-party accreditation.

In lieu of physically seeing drillers operating on multiple machines in a 12-month period, it was proposed that, similar to VQ assessments, professional discussions could be used to provide additional evidence to help determine ongoing competency in a drilling discipline. The drillers who were not physically drilling in a certain discipline in front of an auditor would be asked questions on how they conduct the drilling discipline; their answers would then be assessed by the auditors in a similar vein to VQ assessment set criteria. This would be accepted as proof of competence in year one, however in year two, the disciplines would need to be reversed – i.e. a driller physically seen cable percussion drilling and verbally assessed in rotary in year one, would need to be physically seen rotary drilling and verbally assessed for cable percussion in year two.

The BDA can now confirm that, following the recent MPQC Accredited Centre audit, provided sufficient evidence is contained within the audit report to confirm competence, this proposal has been accepted by MPQC. This means that the audit’s third-party accredited status remains unaffected and verbal, professional discussion evidence can be submitted towards proving ongoing competency in the “second” discipline that isn’t physically displayed on the day of audit.

In addition, it was accepted by the BDA Audit Steering Group and MPQC that historical audits up to 24 months old could be used as evidence of initial competency, alongside a valid VQ in the discipline. This means that if a driller was audited in 2020-21 on a cable percussion drilling machine, but in 2022 is audited on a rotary machine, their audit card is eligible to read ‘Cable Percussion / Rotary’, however in 2023 they would need to be seen on a cable percussion machine again.

Under this revised criteria, and following a successful audit in May 2022, the BDA can also confirm that MacGeo driller Andrew Mossman has become the first dual-audited driller to achieve BDA audited status under the MPQC accreditation. Andrew is also the first sonic driller to obtain an MPQC accredited BDA audit card.

As a reminder, all drillers wishing to be audited on any drilling discipline must have a valid, applicable VQ. Whether that is rotary, cable percussion, dynamic sampling or sonic; proof of initial competence must be provided via a VQ to be eligible for audit.

If any members would like further clarification or guidance on eligibility for BDA audits and particularly multi-discipline audits, please contact the BDA Audit Management on [audit@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk](mailto:audit@britishdrillingassociation.co.uk).