

# 5 THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR HAZARDOUS AREAS TRAINER





IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A SEASONED INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL LOOKING FOR A REFRESHER COURSE, OR YOU'RE COMPLETELY NEW TO THE HA FIELD AND NEED IN-DEPTH, INITIAL TRAINING TO GET YOU UP TO SPEED: IF YOU WORK IN THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY, YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND YOURSELF LOOKING FOR AN EEHA TRAINER AT SOME POINT.

And in a field where frankly, a lot of so-called "expertise" is a little dubious, your choice of course and provider is important. If EEHA is the route you decide to take in your career, then you need to be certain that the trainer you select is not only qualified to teach you, but is also experienced, knowledgeable and trustworthy.

We know it's overwhelming when you're searching for a trainer. There's a lot of information out there, and unfortunately much of it isn't helpful or accurate. So: how do you sift the useful from the useless? How do you spot the accurate amongst the inaccurate? In this eBook we'll examine the things you need to know before you select your EEHA training provider. We want to ensure that when you reach the end of your course, you are confident that you've gained the knowledge you need to proceed with your career.

Our guide explores the importance of having a clearly defined industry focus; understanding course prerequisites; what kinds of course materials you should expect to receive; and the standards that they should be based on.



# 1

## THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING AND UTILISING AS/NZS/IEC 60079.14.

AS/NZS/IEC 60079.14 IS THE STANDARD THAT GOVERNS ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS IN HAZARDOUS AREAS. THIS SHOULD BE THE FOUNDATION OF ANY EEHA COURSE AND SHOULD BE REGULARLY REFERRED TO AND FEATURED THROUGHOUT YOUR COURSE.

When you're flipping through catalogues or browsing the website of your potential training provider, take note of how often AS/NZS/IEC 60079.14 is mentioned. This is a great way to weed out those who understand the importance of this standard and those who don't.

If your choice of course doesn't reference AS/NZS/IEC 60079.14 then you should be questioning where the course content is coming from. Teaching hazardous areas without 60079.14 would be a bit like teaching an electrical apprentice without referencing AS/NZS 3000. And while we may run into electricians with questionable knowledge of AS/NZS 3000 from time to time, they aren't the ones that we call when we need some work done.

If your trainer tells you that he or she deviates from or doesn't use AS/NZS/IEC 60079.14, then you should ask why, and perhaps keep looking for a more reputable training provider.



# 2

## ASK YOURSELF, DOES THIS TRAINING PROVIDER UNDERSTAND THE PRE-REQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE?

IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND YOUR COURSE PREREQUISITES. QUITE FREQUENTLY TRAINERS WHO ARE MISINFORMED OR INEXPERIENCED WILL ADVISE STUDENTS THEY NEED TO HOLD A CURRENT UNRESTRICTED ELECTRICAL LICENSE IN ORDER TO SIGN UP FOR A COURSE. THIS IS NOT STRICTLY CORRECT.

There are pathways that allow instrumentation technicians, fire, gas and security system installers and electrical engineers to undertake training and obtain hazardous area competencies. The challenge is finding a training provider who knows what those pathways are and is capable of successfully guiding you through them.

Now it is possible that you've read this and thought, that's okay, I already hold my current unrestricted electrical license so this doesn't apply to me. This does, however, apply to you. We understand the importance of your hard-

earned money and would respectfully recommend you spend it with those who are capable of providing you with the latest, most accurate information.

If a provider doesn't understand the course pre-requisite requirements, you can't be sure that you're receiving the right information throughout the rest of the course.

You deserve peace of mind when you're investing in a course. Before you sign up be sure that you ask the right questions to get the most for your time and money.





# 3

## WHY THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE FOCUS.

WE KNOW HOW IT IS WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A COURSE; YOU WANT TO GET THE MOST FOR YOUR MONEY AND FRANKLY, WE DON'T BLAME YOU. THE KEY, THOUGH, IS NOT TO EXPECT TOO MUCH.

Of course you can (and should) expect to receive a detailed and informative course, useful course materials, and an experienced trainer, but you probably are not going to find a course that adequately covers multiple EEHA industries.

There are three variants of the hazardous areas competencies: one that addresses gas/vapour areas, one for combustible dusts, and the third for underground coal mining.

There are significant differences in installation practices and the way in which standards are applied in these industries. In particular, coal mines and surface industries

are governed by different legislation and use very different equipment. If a course claims to cover all topics at once then you are probably not going to receive detailed information about each specialised area.

Rather than trying to squeeze all industries into one quick course, you're much better off (and in general, safer) to focus on only one area. This will ensure you fully grasp what you're being trained in and that you actually are qualified when you leave and don't just hold a meaningless piece of paper.



# 4

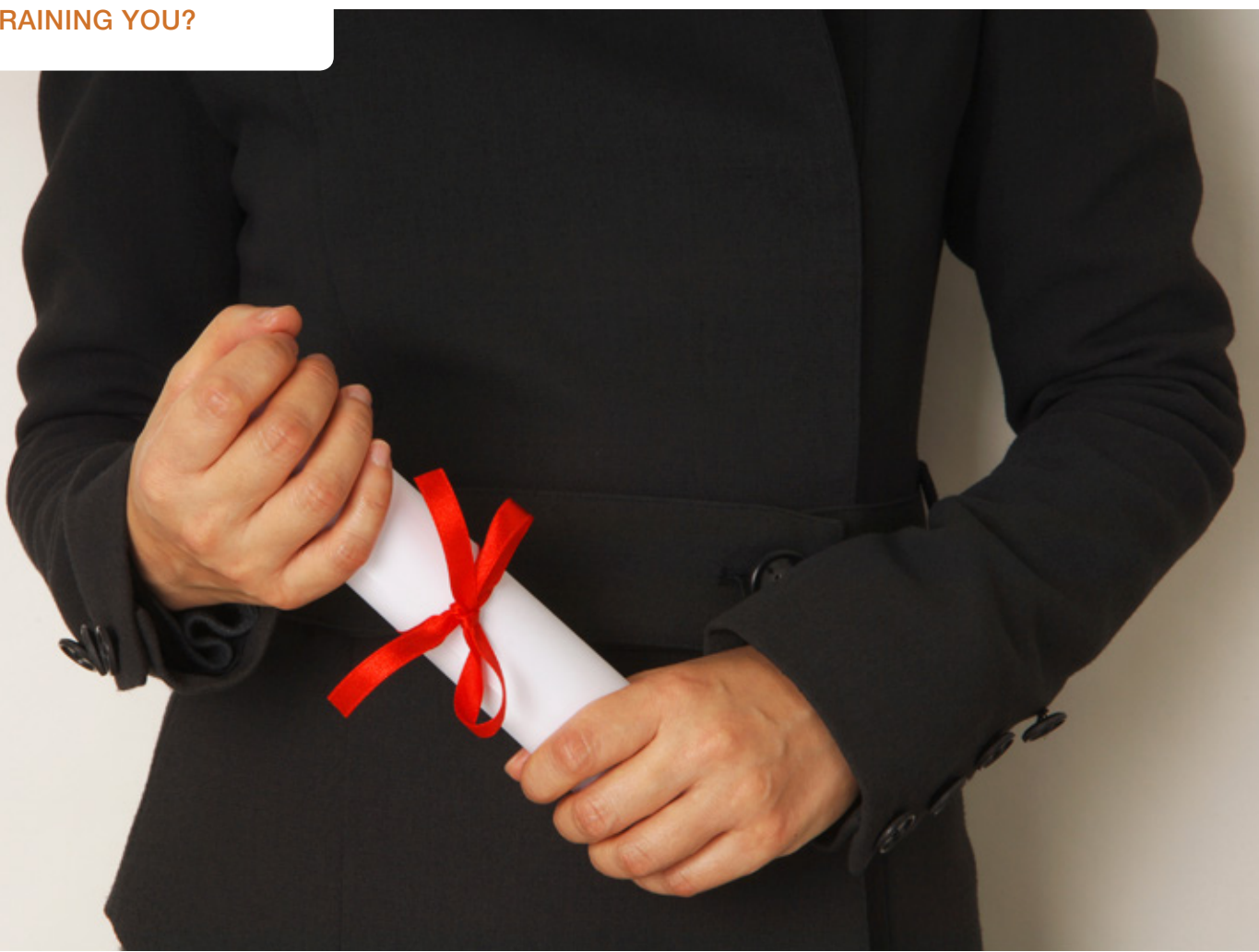
## ENQUIRE ABOUT YOUR TRAINING MATERIALS.

OFTEN WHEN YOU'RE CONSIDERING SIGNING UP FOR A COURSE THE VERY LAST THING ON YOUR RADAR IS THE TRAINING MATERIALS YOU WILL BE PROVIDED. IF YOU SIGN UP FOR AN EEHA TRAINING COURSE THEN SURELY YOU'LL BE PROVIDED WITH DETAILED AND USEFUL TRAINING MATERIALS. THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE.

You may have the best training provider with years of experience who is able to present the subject matter in a meaningful and memorable way, and that's great. When you're done with the course and in the real world, however, it's rare not to need to revisit some of the information you were taught. The key here is to ensure that the training materials you're provided with are clear, easy to read and understand, and organised in such a way that allows you

to quickly find what you're looking for. When you're in the field, spare time is rare so the training materials you have should work for you, not against you.

Lastly, ensure the materials you've been given are fact-based. Opinions are not useful when you're working in a hazardous areas environment. Everything in your course material should be a reflection of industry standards.



# 5

## KNOW WHO YOUR TRAINERS ARE.

THIS IS POTENTIALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT DETAIL WHEN SIGNING UP FOR A COURSE, SO BE SURE TO ENQUIRE ABOUT YOUR TRAINER BEFORE YOU SIGN THE DOTTED LINE.

So what specifically should you be looking for in a trainer?

- Have they worked in the industry they are training you for?
- What qualifications do they have?
- How many years experience do they boast?
- Have they taught before?

These are all relevant questions that will help you identify a successful trainer. Just because your trainer has worked in EEHA before, does not necessarily mean they've worked in the specific area they are training you in. Petrochemical plants are different to coal mines. You should be able to rest assured that your trainer knows the field they're teaching you in intimately. You also want to know that they have years of experience in both the technical and teaching fields.



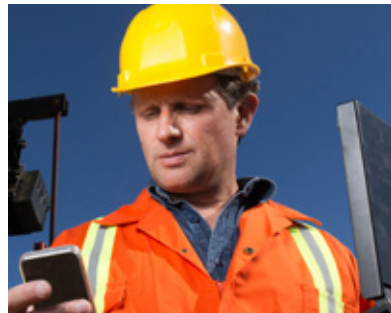


NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A TRAINING PROVIDER, YOU'RE READY TO GET STARTED. KEEP THIS AS A GUIDE TO HELP ENSURE YOU'RE GETTING THE MOST FOR YOUR MONEY.

At the end of the day, it's all about becoming qualified to work in your area of EEHA. Don't assume all courses are created equal: take the time to find the course that's right for you from a provider with a proven track record.

At Extend Training we're proud to provide experienced trainers who have more than 200 years' combined experience working in hazardous areas across a range of industries as well as over 50 years' experience teaching others.

Our training methods are widely recognised due to the high quality we provide and incredible competency outcomes that have been recognised both nationally and internationally. Lastly, we understand what it means to provide great value for money. We offer some of the most competitive rates around and are proud to provide what we believe is the best EEHA training money can buy.



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