

## **PMA08 Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Refining (revised)**

The PMA Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Oil Refining Training Package was developed in 1998 (PMA98) and subsequently reviewed in 2002. The PMA02 Training Package has been continuously improved since endorsement with the inclusion of incident response units in 2003 and the addition of units of competency for aluminium smelting operations in 2006. The work undertaken for this review has been based on and has addressed the recommendations agreed by industry in the Phase 1 Report.

The review of PMA02 occurred in an environment of rationalisation and as a step towards laying the foundation for ongoing continuous improvement. There had been some significant changes in the broader Training Package environment since 2002, including:

- development and endorsement of MCM04 Competitive Manufacturing;
- development and endorsement of MSA07 Manufacturing;
- introduction of Graduate Certificates and Diplomas; and
- introduction of Skills Sets.

In addition to these changes in the VET scene the industry's use of PMA Training Package was increasing and maturing with most of the majors now accepting Certificate II and/or III as a basic qualification for their plant operators/technicians and with a significant body of plant technicians now looking at the Certificate IV and Diploma.

Members of the National Quality Council endorsed the revised PMA08 Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Refining Training Package out of session on 2 May 2008. The Ministerial delegate approved the NQC endorsement decision on 27 May 2008.

The revised PMA08 Training Package qualifications were accredited by VETAB on 4 August 2008.

Changes included in the review of the PMA Training Package are:

- Change of name to "Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Refining":  
In keeping with this extension of focus of PMA, and after much deliberation, it was decided that simply removing 'Oil' from the name resulted in a title that covered the refining of minerals, which is a growing sector for PMA. Industry stakeholders agreed that as the 'oil refining' sector is actually seen as part of 'hydrocarbons', the new name provides a more inclusive title, without loss of the good will and recognition associated with the previous name.

- Changes to qualifications in PMA08:  
PMA02 provided a range of both 'technical' and non-technical or 'support' qualifications. These had an integrated vertical structure, with some facility for moving between technical and support qualifications. PMA08 only retains the technical qualifications within its structure. The non-technical PMA02

Certificates I, II and III in Process Support have been placed in the MSA07 Manufacturing Training Package.

The Certificates II, III and IV remain essentially unchanged, although additional production elective units have been included to address identified gaps.

The Diploma has been restructured to remove the implicit assumption in PMA50102 that the previous Certificates had also been achieved. People with the Certificate IV may achieve some advanced standing depending on the units selected. The structure has been chosen to keep the increment between Certificate IV and Diploma approximately constant.

- **Relocation of support qualifications:**

Previous reviews of the process manufacturing Training Packages have attempted to rationalise the three support qualifications provided by PMA Chemical, Hydrocarbons and Refining Training Package, PMB Plastics, Rubber and Cabemaking Training Package and PMC Manufactured Mineral Products Training Package. The creation of MSA07 Manufacturing Training Package has allowed this to occur. The three support qualifications were rationalised in 2007 and moved into MSA07 for use across all of process manufacturing. There is now a broader range of units to choose from and continued access to a similar range of units as in PMA02.

- **Addition of a Vocational Graduate Certificate:**

As a result of an approach by the surface coatings industry, a Vocational Graduate Certificate has been developed in PMA08. The history of this particular qualification can be traced back 30 years or more. It has always been an industry run qualification, first by OCCA (Oil and Colour Chemists Association) and more recently by SCAA (Surface Coatings Association of Australia – an updated OCCA).

- **Skills sets:**

Given the emphasis on safety and incident preparedness/response across the PMA sectors, the industry has supported the inclusion of a range of Skills Sets in PMA08. These have been created to address specific and ongoing training needs.

### **Qualification Outcomes:**

PMA20108 Certificate II in Process Plant Operations  
PMA30108 Certificate III in Process Plant Operations  
PMA40108 Certificate IV in Process Plant Technology  
PMA50108 Diploma of Process Plant Technology  
PMA60108 Advanced Diploma of Process Plant Technology  
PMA70108 Vocational Graduate Certificate in Surface Coatings

### **For further information, contact**

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