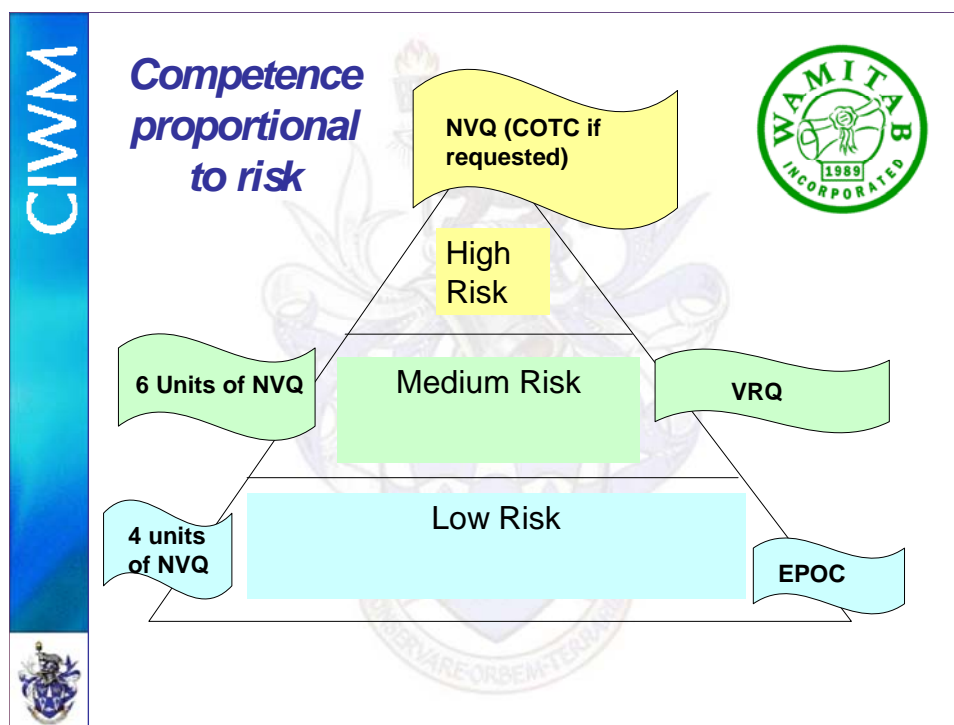


FIRST OPERATORS COMPETENCE CERTIFICATES ISSUED

The first Operators Competence Certificates (OCC) under the joint CIWM/WAMITAB competence scheme were issued on 3 February 2009. This scheme, approved by Defra/Welsh Assembly Government on 22 December 2008, provides individuals within England and Wales with a flexible, risk-based approach to demonstrating competence where each person has a choice of qualifications and programmes depending on which risk tier they fall within.

This builds on the concept of an individual's competence which was the cornerstone of the previous CoTC scheme and extends it further into low, medium and high risk waste management activities. The Environment Agency, as the Regulator in England and Wales, will determine the risk tier as part of the Permit application process.



These OCC's compliment the VRQs which were recently awarded to Norfolk County Council candidates registered through SERAC (an Approved WAMITAB Assessment Centre) and the first Environmental Permit Operators Certificates (EPOC) issued via CIWM. Dr Lawrence Strong, WAMITAB's Director General said, "thirty-six of the OCCs are based on the 6 unit qualification and one on the full NVQ. These candidates were among the first to be certificated as soon as the Scheme became operational. I fully anticipate that the number of candidates in 2009 will increase significantly now that the scheme is up and running. One interesting feature is that people are still requesting the CoTC which is still seen as a benchmark for competence in the industry and remains the statutory qualification in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The next big step is the introduction of the Continuing Competence element of our joint scheme which will come into force on 1 March 2009".

For further information visit the relevant sections of our web site.