

3rd Int. Disposal Conf.,
Karlskoga, Sweden, 2003.

**"EXCERT", A EUROPEAN PILOT PROJECT FOR DEVELOPING
AND MAINTAINING SKILLS AND COMPETENCE FOR
PERSONNEL IN THE EXPLOSIVES SECTOR**

Hans Wallin
KCEM AB, SE-691 51 Karlskoga, Sweden

ABSTRACT

Explosives accidents have claimed the lives of more than a thousand people around the world since the turn of the Millennium. Added to the loss of life has been a significant loss of material values in the form of production resources and capability. Many of the accidents have been caused, not by failure of design, but by human failure. Much of the human failure can be attributed to lack of necessary competence, skills, and training of the people concerned. This paper describes some of the initiatives being taken in Sweden and in the Leonardo da Vinci programme of the European Union to ensure that workers at all levels in the explosives community within the EU have the skills and competence required to safely sustain activities involving explosives. It will describe the development and evolution of a range of explosives competence and the training and qualifications framework being developed to generate and maintain the competence. Finally, the paper will refer to some of the novel training approaches that are being applied in Sweden.