



# **PIABC LEVEL 2 AWARD IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY**

Qualification Number: 603/3265/7

## **Qualification Specification**

Updated: 19 July 2023

## **PURPOSE**

PIABC Level 2 Award in Packaging Technology is a regulated qualification. Its main purpose is to provide learners with a basic introduction to the packaging functions, materials used for the construction of packaging and the methods for forming packaging and filling the packaging with products.

## **GENERAL OUTCOMES**

The general objectives of the PIABC Level 2 Award in Packaging Technology are to:

1. Provide those employed in the packaging and related industries with the skills, knowledge and understanding to underpin and enhance job experience
2. Provide learners with a portable qualification to enable job movement throughout the industry
3. Provide learners with a means of progression to higher level qualifications, e.g. PIABC Level 3 Certificate in Packaging
4. Provide employers throughout the packaging and related industries with a firm basis for judging suitability of learners
5. Raise the status of those employed in the packaging and related industries

## **TARGET GROUP**

This Level 2 qualification is appropriate for those learners wanting to enhance their employment and progression opportunities in the packaging and related industries.

For example, learners may be those who are:

- handling and using packaging
- liaising with specifiers, users and handlers of packaging
- liaising with packaging suppliers
- new recruits to the manufacturing and packaging industries, who require an introduction to the broad subject of packaging
- those looking for a broad qualification in packaging as a basis for career development
- not currently employed in the industry, who may be following courses in associate subject areas will find that this programme broadens the scope of their studies

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

There are no entry qualifications or age limits required for this qualification. However, centres must ensure that learners have the potential and opportunity to gain the qualification successfully.

## **STAFFING**

It is expected that staff involved with the delivery of the course will be appropriately qualified and/or experienced in packaging. The PIABC Limited approval process requires prospective centres to provide details of the staff involved in delivery and assessment including their qualifications and relevant training/employment experience, plus staff development arrangements. Whilst these details are passed on to the external moderator appointed by PIABC Limited, it is the centre's responsibility to ensure tutors' qualifications are both bona fide and appropriate to the level of the qualification.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

PIABC Limited requires that each centre has a quality assurance and enhancement procedure in respect of the programme, and a means of monitoring its implementation.

There should be a team that is responsible for preparing an annual self-assessment of the programme and for monitoring the improvement measures resulting from this.

This self-assessment process should use evidence from different sources including:

- Learner self-evaluation

- The views of external individuals and organisations, for example those companies sending learners
- Staff working on the award

In addition, it is also expected that there will be an internal moderation procedure to ensure standardisation of unit delivery. This will include the following elements:

- Classroom observation
- Peer review of award materials
- Moderation of any internally assessed elements

There should be a named and appropriately qualified individual (Centre Co-ordinator) who has the necessary authority, with whom the awarding body can liaise directly on all matters of management, administration and quality assurance.

## **EXTERNAL MODERATION**

PIABC Limited will appoint external centre monitors to visit centres in order to ensure the maintenance of standards of quality. The role of the centre monitor includes:

- Liaison between the centre and PIABC Limited to ensure standardisation in terms of the quality of award delivery
- Providing advice and support for the centre in understanding and implementing the requirements of the units and the PIABC Limited

An External Quality Assurance (EQA) a desktop activity monitoring exercise is required for centres that have registered candidates and will formally report on the outcome of this visit to the centre and PIABC Limited. All items contained in the report will be discussed with the centre and any action that the centre needs to take will be agreed at that stage. Any visits in addition to the annual visit may incur an additional fee.

The scope and frequency of assessment monitoring activities will be in part determined by the centre assessment standard strategy for this qualification. PIABC's monitoring strategy will ensure that all centre marked assessments remain fit for purpose and that criteria against which candidates' performance is differentiated are being accurately and consistently applied for this qualification regardless on assessor, candidate, or centre.

The focus of EQA for this qualification is the detailed examination of candidate evidence. The sample selection will be determined by PIABC in line with its centre assessment standard strategy and external quality assurance sampling policy. During this exercise, the EQA will be able to agree to certification claims and sign off documentation relating to certification claims.

This EQA is conducted remotely as PIABC does not want to add additional financial burden to its centres which can be caused by EQA physical monitoring visits.

## **PROGRAMME ORGANISATION**

PIABC Level 2 Award in Packaging Technology is designed to provide learners with a basic introduction to the packaging functions, materials used for the construction of packaging and the methods for forming and filling the packaging with products.

To achieve the qualification, learners need to successfully gain the 3 credits.

It is expected that courses leading to the qualification will take a minimum of 21 guided learning hours, which is the average hours a learner may require guidance and support from teaching, learning and assessment professional to achieve the qualification. Learners may be expected to carry out additional reading and other work to complete each unit and prepare for the assignments.

It is anticipated that the qualification will require a minimum of 30 hours of total qualification time for satisfactory completion for an average learner.

The organisation of the award is at the discretion of the centre and will take into account the aims, aspirations and experience of the learners.

Centres are encouraged to choose the most suitable curriculum model for their learners. Whilst the sequential delivery of units is a possibility and may provide the most straightforward way of determining completion of individual units, it may be that some degree of integration of units will occur, or that other methods of delivery are more appropriate to meet the needs of learners. It should be noted however that each unit will be individually assessed.

Centres must ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for supporting learners. This could be either through separate tutorial sessions or through the use of time within structured study sessions. Centres using on-line or other forms of open learning must ensure that appropriate tutorial support is provided for learners.

In relevant circumstances, centres are recommended to provide information and guidance to their learners on the availability and type of employment the programme may lead to and on the progression routes available for further education and training in packaging.

## **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY, METHODS AND ASSESSMENT**

Packaging is a practical subject, based on theoretical principles. As far as possible, it is important that the course is taught by relating the underlying theory to practical examples and applications. Two factors which will help in this regard are:

1. The use of lecturers with direct experience in the packaging industry is likely to offer the most appropriate level of practical knowledge. This must, of course, be balanced against a sound understanding of the theoretical principles, as anecdotal experience alone is unlikely to meet the requirements of the course.
2. Factory visits should be undertaken where possible to make the link between theoretical principles and practical applications. Familiarity with different packaging settings will be assumed in elements of the qualification's assessment. DVD illustrations of processes should also be used as part of the teaching regime. A further and invaluable source of information is the Internet and there are many web sites which demonstrate important aspects of packaging manufacture and use. Lecturers should be encouraged to use this material, always making sure due acknowledgment is given to the source.

Whilst all units are designed to be *standalone* some items appear as common themes across more than one unit. This should be recognised by tutors and links made in those cases where learners are working across more than a single unit.

Those learners employed in the packaging and related industries, will come to the course with varying levels of existing knowledge and/or practical experience of some parts of the syllabus. Lecturers should utilise this, through group work and other structured interactive activities, thus encouraging the sharing of knowledge which has the potential to lead to a better level of understanding.

The relation of theory and practice is a theme that will be reflected in the assessments for each unit and for the programme as a whole. Therefore, in structured learning and individual work, learners should be aware of the requirement to develop a practical dimension to their understanding.

## QUALIFICATION LEVEL

PIABC Level 2 Award in Packaging Technology has been developed as a Level 2 qualification.

When work for this qualification it is important to realise that evidence will be sought which demonstrates these features.

### Level 2 Descriptor

#### Summary

The descriptors set out the generic knowledge and skills associated with the typical holder of a qualification at Level 2. The level descriptors are framed as outcomes and each category starts with a stem statement (“the holder can...”) which then links into the outcomes associated with each level of the framework.

#### Knowledge descriptor (the holder...)

- Has knowledge and understanding of facts, procedures and ideas in an area of study or field of work to complete well-defined tasks and address straightforward problems.
- Can interpret relevant information and ideas.
- Is aware of a range of information that is relevant to the area of study or work.

#### Skills descriptor (the holder...)

- Select and use relevant cognitive and practical skills to complete well-defined, generally routine tasks and address straightforward problems.
- Identify, gather and use relevant information to inform actions.
- Identify how effective actions have been.

*Source: Qualification and Component Levels - Requirements and Guidance for All Awarding Organisations and All Qualifications. Version: Ofqual/15/5774. Ofqual 2015.*

## QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

The award is divided into three mandatory units as shown below:

Unit APT1 - Packaging Roles & Functions

Unit APT2 - Packaging Materials

Unit APT3 - Packaging Operations

## ASSESSMENT

PIABC Level 2 Award in Packaging Technology is assessed by completing assignments which are set, internally assessed and internally quality assured by the centre. The assignments should be designed for a holistic approach to the assessment and allow learners to use examples of packaging from their workplace or other packaging which the learner is familiar with in their assessments to confirm that the learners have a full contextualised understanding of all the learning outcomes.

A sample selection of the assignments will be externally quality assured by PIABC. For each cohort a sample selection will be external quality assured by PIABC. The sample selection will be determined by PIABC in line with its centre assessment standard strategy and external quality assurance sampling policy. This will be undertaken before qualification certification. PIABC's centre assessment standard strategy will ensure that all centre devised and marked assessments remain fit for purpose and that criteria against which candidates' performance is differentiated are being accurately and consistently applied for this qualification.

This is a graded qualification with pass, merit and distinction being available.

The overall grading structure for the qualification is not subject to change.

## QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATION

The full award is available at *Pass*, *Merit* or *Distinction* to learners who successfully complete all the units.

## REGULATORY INFORMATION

Countries offered in:	England, Northern Ireland
Subject/sector area:	4.2 Manufacturing Technologies
Qualification operational start date:	17 May 2018
Qualification review date:	31 December 2024
Applicable age ranges (years):	16-18, 18+

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact PIABC Limited directly at:

PIABC Limited, The Boilerhouse, Caunt Road, Grantham, NG31 7FZ

Tel: 01476 513884

Email: [piabc@iom3.org](mailto:piabc@iom3.org)