



PIABC Level 2 Award in Timber and Panel Products and their Uses

Qualification Number: 600/5496/7

Qualification Specification

Updated: 15 January 2020

INTRODUCTION

The *Award in Timber and Panel Products and their Uses* is a nationally recognised qualification which provides learners with basic knowledge of the different types of timber and timber products, how they are processed and their uses. Those achieving the qualification will be able to apply this knowledge to choosing appropriate products, advising others and suggesting correct applications for particular functions.

The qualification is intended for those already employed or newcomers to the industry and is designed to provide trade specific knowledge appropriate for the day to day activities in a timber yard, retail outlet or office. By the end of the course, the learner should be familiar with the main softwoods, hardwoods and panel products traded in the UK. He/she should understand how they are graded, priced, measured and selected for use. He/she should be familiar with the trade terms for these products and be able to explain how and why the items are used in the principal building components.

AIM

This national qualification is knowledge based and aims to provide work-based learners with a basic knowledge of the different types of timber and timber products, how they are processed and their uses. Those achieving the qualification will be able to apply this knowledge to choosing appropriate products, advising others and suggesting correct applications for particular functions.

The *Award in Timber and Panel Products and their Uses* is intended as a short course either for those wishing to pursue a career in the timber or related industries, or for those who are already in the industry and who wish to extend their knowledge and expertise. The qualification can also provide a very useful complementary qualification for apprenticeship programmes, a unit in a broader competence-based qualification or the preparation to progress to higher levels of study.

The qualification is designed to provide trade specific knowledge appropriate for the day to day activities in a timber or builder's merchant's yard or office or in retail DIY. By the end of the course, the learner should be familiar with the main softwoods, hardwoods and panel products traded in the UK. He/she should understand how they are graded, priced, measured and selected for use. He/she should be familiar with the trade terms for these products and be able to explain how and why the items are used in the principal building components. At the same time there is the need to work in a safe manner and observe all relevant health, safety and environmental rules and regulations as specified by the organisation.

OUTCOMES

In setting out a clearly defined level of learner achievement, this qualification will:

1. Enhance the knowledge and job satisfaction of *learners* and provide them with a means of progression to higher level qualifications, as well as job movement throughout the timber sector and other related areas of the timber industry.
2. Provide *employers* with an open and transparent basis for judging the suitability of learners for employment and promotion.

Specific outcomes for the qualification are listed under the individual unit description.

TARGET GROUP

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

There are four broad target groups:

1. People recently employed in the industry who want to gain a sound foundation to the material that is central to the sector, to enable them to operate more effectively.
2. People who have been in the industry for some time who want to extend their knowledge and gain a recognised qualification.
3. Those pursuing a competence-based qualification that requires underpinning knowledge.
4. Finally, the qualification will appeal to people who are not currently employed in the industry, but who wish to gain a basic qualification as a step towards getting a job and progressing in the sector.

Due to the diverse nature of the timber and related industries, it is difficult to define the target groups in terms of precise job functions. Typically, learners are likely to be working as operatives or sales personnel in any of the following disciplines:

Job role	Type of company
Sales personnel (office based/on the road); yard/warehouse personnel;	Timber products importer and merchant
Counter sale staff, sales floor operatives	Builders merchant, DIY retail business
Sales personnel; yard operatives	Sawmill

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no entry qualifications or age limits required for this qualification.

Assessment for this qualification is open to any learner who has the potential to reach the standards laid down for these qualifications. As a guide those with the following are likely to indicate the potential to succeed: Level 1 qualifications, a minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade D-G (or equivalent), or experience that indicates ability to succeed. An initial assessment of past experience and current skills, knowledge and understanding should be carried out prior to commencement, to determine suitability for this qualification.

Aids or appliances, which are designed to alleviate disability, may be used during assessment, providing they do not compromise the standard required.

PROGRESSION

Success in this qualification prepares learners for progression in the timber industry to a position where they can assume some level of responsibility or gain further qualifications for example, an apprenticeship or PIABC Level 3 Certificate in Wood Technology and Application.

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

This is a single unit qualification, so all parts are mandatory. To achieve the qualification, learners need to successfully gain the 10 credits:

	Title	Level	Tutor contact	Self study and exam	Total qualification time	Credit Value
Unit	Award in Timber and Panel Products and their Uses	2	28	72	100	10

QUALIFICATION LEVEL

The *Award in Timber and Panel Products and their Uses* is a Level 2 qualification.

Learners require the skills, knowledge and understanding to show competence in applying technical and commercial principles to a range of tasks.

Learners may have direct responsibility for others or may have responsibilities within a team.

This qualification requires the learner to understand the materials, and how these combine in practical operations so that they may better assist the customer in selecting an appropriate product for end use. It will prepare the learner to operate as a competent team member and will greatly assist them in their career development.

The examination for this qualification is based on the learning outcomes and assessment criteria set in a way that demonstrates the features above.

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

Level 2 Descriptor

Summary

Achievement at Level 2 reflects the ability to select and use relevant knowledge, ideas, skills and procedures to complete well-defined tasks and address straightforward problems. It includes taking responsibility for completing tasks and procedures and exercising autonomy and judgement subject to overall direction or guidance.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Use understanding of facts, procedures and ideas to complete well-defined tasks and address straightforward problems.
- Interpret relevant information and ideas.
- Be aware of the types of information that are relevant to the area of study or work

Application and action

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

Autonomy and accountability

- Take responsibility for completing tasks and procedures
- Exercise autonomy and judgement subject to overall direction or guidance

Source: Level descriptors for positioning units in the Qualifications and Credit Framework tests and trials. Version 2: 2006. QCA.

PROGRAMME ORGANISATION

This is a single unit qualification and it is anticipated that the qualification will require 100 learning hours for satisfactory completion. These will be made up of taught hours (40 suggested), the use of workbooks, practical investigations etc along with 60 hours of workplace learning.

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 parts of the unit is a possibility and may provide the most straightforward way of determining completion, it may be that some degree of integration of elements will occur, or that other methods of delivery are more appropriate to meet the needs of learners. It should be noted however that the whole unit and all the learning outcomes will be 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 wood technology.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY, METHODS AND ASSESSMENT

Timber technology 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 staff with direct experience in the timber and related industries. 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. Practical and commercial examples that underpin a more theoretical understanding should be used to show the link between theory and practice. DVD illustrations of processes could 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 timber processing and use. Learners should be encouraged to research this material.
3. Practical experience of workplace operations handling timber.

Those learners employed in the timber and related industries, will come to the course with varying levels of existing knowledge and/or practical experience of some parts of the syllabus. This should be

utilised in preparing for the examination. The sharing of knowledge which has the potential to lead to a high level of understanding should be encouraged.

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

Those developing learning programmes should expect to achieve all the learning outcomes. It may be useful to have workbooks for use either at home or in the workplace. The addition of diagrams and photographs may enhance learning.

ASSESSMENT

The unit is assessed by a one and half hour written examination covering all six learning outcomes. The examination will consist of short answer questions and longer style questions, which may require illustrations with diagrams.

To be successful in the examination, students must ensure that they pass all the learning outcomes and gained an overall pass mark of 50%.

The pass threshold for this unit is not subject to change.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATION

The full qualification is available at *Pass*, *Merit* or *Distinction* to learners who successfully complete the examination.

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

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Learning Outcome	This describes what a learner needs to know, understand or do as a result of the process of learning.
Assessment Criteria	These are the requirements learners are expected to meet to demonstrate that a learning outcome has been achieved.
Centre	The organisation that is approved by PIABC for the purposes of preparing learners for assessment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact PIABC Limited directly at:

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