

Qualification News – February 2013

6156-01 Streetworks Excavation and Reinstatement

6156-02 & 6156-12 Reassessed Streetworks Excavation and Reinstatement

Scheme Revisions

1. The government is expected to make an announcement in February at the earliest on the future of the Regulatory requirement to hold approved qualifications. This is part of the governments Red Tape Challenge aimed at reducing legislation where industries should be able to self-regulate. This would only affect England at this time due to devolution and subordinate legislation in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Centres will be informed once known.

Whichever way the government chooses to go the current qualifications will remain available to all existing and new centres. Also see www.dft.gov.uk

2. The Training and Accreditation Working Group (a sub-group of the Highways and Utilities Committee) continues to carry out its role in revising the Standards and assessment materials for both 6156-01 and 6156-02 & -12. It is expected that revised Standards for 6156-01 will be available by summer 2013. Work has been completed on being able to provide centres with common supplementary/supporting assessment materials. These will be available in the early part of the New Year and it will be down to centres to either use the supporting documents or have available something as good as or better than ones provided. This is aimed at achieving a common standard across all centres and all Awarding Bodies.
3. Standards are being revised alongside of the existing Codes of Practice, material specification and current terminology. This will also be reflected in the operative and supervisor assessment materials.
4. Unit question banks used for 6156-01 are also on the agenda for revision and should be available later in the year.
5. The use of video as a source of evidence gathering will be removed. The Standards and assessment assignments for supervisors will be to observe real operatives undertaking tasks that enable all unit assignments to be completed. Centres that are reliant on using this as an assessment resource will need to revise their assessment strategies that will enable real work to be observed.
6. Unit 007 will specify that the material to be used is from a range of Asphalt Concretes rather than just Hot Rolled Asphalts for Type 4 Flexible permanent repair method. This will allow for greater flexibility with being able to order small quantities of materials as well as to better reflect the current working practices regarding materials used in the work place.

7. Some questions used in the reassessment of operatives and supervisors are in the process of being either changed or altered. This is from feedback on examination results where it has been identified some question used are commonly answered incorrectly.

Applications to SWQR – 6156-02 & 6156-12 Reassessment

8. The current Regulations state that SWQR must be in **receipt** of an application for card renewals (England only) within the 6 months period of grace given. Where an application falls outside of this period then the application will be rejected. This will affect those who leave it to the last moment to be reassessed and miss the deadline set in Regulations. Centres should check that such application will be received by SWQR prior to the 6 months period of grace. Without a change in Regulation SWQR must comply with this.
9. Centres are reminded to only send passport quality photographs to the SWQR on application for a card.

Approved Codes of Practice and Guidance Documents

10. The 3rd edition of Safety at Streetworks and Roadworks is expected to be brought in on 1st April 2013 with a possible implementation date of October 2013. This will be effective in England with other devolved governments expected to follow but may have their own versions.

A copy of the Draft ACOP can be found at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110504012727/http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/2010-15/>

11. Specifications for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways (SROH) is currently under review in England although no timescales for release have been established. Wales are now working to introduce Edition 3 SROH, again no date has been given for release.

Other items

The reassessment of Operatives and Supervisors only effects those working and living in England. The requirement for reassessment does not affect Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland at this time. Centres should ensure that they do not confuse this by openly advertising reassessment in area where it is not required. SWQR have a specific application form for those who just need to re-register their cards in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

It has been identified that some centres advertise that to gain a supervisors qualification it is a requirement to hold the operative one first. This is not a requirement and it is strongly advised that centres do not market the qualification in this way.

The qualification is only a legal requirement where 'streetworks' are under taken under the provisions of the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991, Section 67. There is no legal requirement for other highway works such as those carried out by a local authority, although many authorities also use the qualification as a basic level of assessing competence.