



12/08/2020

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Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information Request: 152020**

Thank you for contacting CITB requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Your email, dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020, asked for the following information:

Plant Operator standards for the CITB's Approved Training Organisations (ATOs) are not available on the CITB website. My FOI request under the 2000 Act is as follows:

1. Since the CITB's launch of the Approved Training Organisations (ATOs) in **2018**, what is the reason why the Plant Operations equipment standards are still not completed and unavailable to sector stakeholders?
2. How does the CITB quality assure plant operator courses booked and paid for under the ATO scheme that is devoid of published plant operator standards?
3. How many ATO Plant Operations courses have been completed under the ATO scheme without plant operator standards being available to the training organisation since the 2018 launch?
4. What specific instructions are given to the CITB's quality assurance teams when auditing ATO plant operator courses that are devoid of published standards?
5. What is the CITB deadline for the completion of all plant operator standards linked to ATO?

Is the CITB's Standards & Development team still after nearly "**three years**" :

6. Redesigning the training and testing templates?
7. Collating training content
8. Comparing testing and delivery arrangements between schemes
9. Consulting with NPORS/LANTRA?
10. Awaiting industry feedback

My response is as follows:

1. All Standards titles are available to stakeholders, some of these standards are still in development however the titles are available and published on CITB website. Most of the standards are categorised as recognised therefore available through third parties with their own quality assurance and approval arrangements, as well as course content. Those that are in the assured category are being developed and employers and stakeholders have been invited to develop these standards, further engagement is required to complete this piece of work.
2. All standards (published and in development) for Plant Operator courses sit within the Recognised category and are subject to the following Quality Assurance processes:
  - Third Party Organisation are required to share their processes with CITB for training providers in their network including; Approval and Assurance.
  - They are also required to map their course to the standard where the full details have been published.
  - Approved Training Organisations who apply for Recognised status are subject to a standardised approval process which includes various due diligence checks.
  - Approved Training Organisations are required to demonstrate their current approval status with the relevant Recognised Third-Party Organisation.
  - Once Approved Training Organisations are given access to an online portal where they are able to choose the required Plant Operator Standard.
  - The Approved Training Organisations is then required to provide details and proof of their approval for the chosen Plant Operator standard, including details of their trainer's individual accreditations.
  - Once the above requirements have been met and approved, the Approved Training Organisations may then advertise on the Construction Training Directory and achievements will be uploaded to the Construction Training Register.
3. Total Number (01/04/18 to 20/07/20) of Plant achievements = 10,501
4. CITB's Quality Assurance staff do not directly audit courses where a third party is in place for standards in the recognised category, as this is the responsibility of the Recognised Third-Party Organisation. Where there is a published assured category standard the Quality Assurance Team use the Requirements for Approved Training Organisations (RATO) as a framework of assurance. This is available on the CITB website.
5. The Standards Team have prioritised the completion of each standard, with a target date for completion of the end of March 2021.
6. The template for creating standards as been in place, and appropriate for the design of a standard, since the launch of the Training Model in 2018. While there have been reviews and small changes to the template, the Testing and Training Standards contain the same information (learning outcomes that require either training or testing) the detail is contained within the assessment specification of the standard.
7. Work continues with stakeholders to develop standards. Training content is not provided as part of the standards work. Standards are the framework for training content to be mapped against, this is carried



out by either the third-party for the recognised category (e.g. CPCS, NPORS, LANTA and others) or the training provider where the standard is in the Assured category.

8. As and when each organisation applies to be part of the training model they are required to submit their application, including their quality arrangements and the mapping of their course to the standard. Where the standard is assured the mapping is required but the quality assurance will be monitored by CITB's Quality Team. Where the standard is in the recognised category the third party organisation (CPCS, NPORS and Others) map their content to the standard and submit to the Quality Team and describe their arrangements for quality assurance, approvals including trainers, and their quality arrangements, this is then reviewed by CITB's Quality Team.
9. Consultation with all industry parties continues where applicable.
10. We welcome feedback from industry for input to all of our standard development. Industry consultation does not stop, it continues in a cyclical manner as and when each standard requires such input.

If you are unhappy with this response, or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied, then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting Adrian Beckingham, Corporate Performance Director, CITB, Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Peterborough, PB2 8TY or email [adrian.beckingham@citb.co.uk](mailto:adrian.beckingham@citb.co.uk).

If you remain unhappy following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioners website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Francis  
Information Risk & Data Governance Manager