

Construction Craft Apprenticeship Challenges

Frequently Asked Questions

Panel:

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Process

Do we need to use the updated guidance, or can I wait until a 2017 apprentice has completed their units before they sit their test?

Yes. There is no requirement to use the additional measures, but they are there to assist, if needed.

I am concerned with allowing apprentices to complete a skills test without completing the SVQ units. They simply won't look at the units needing to be completed for the full award.

The apprentice will be required to sign the Declaration which clearly states that the Skills Test does not represent competence. Taking a Skills Test alone is not a short cut to a qualification.

Is there a percentage of completion of SVQ prior to skills test or is it purely based on the readiness document being completed?

A common sense approach must be taken. The expectation is that the apprentice is in the last 6-months, and only component parts of units are missing. We would not expect the Skills Test to be undertaken if there were a large number of gaps in the SVQ.

It should be noted that if an apprentice undertakes the Skills Test and fails, then they have one chance, and must then wait until the normal time to re-attempt the Skills Test.

The readiness document will require 4 signatures – can these signatures be provided electronically?

Please follow standard requirements with regard to collection of signatures and documentation – electronic confirmations would be acceptable. The declaration would need to be included in their portfolio and uploaded to MA Online. Any email used would need to be authenticated and follow current guidelines.

Painters and Decorators doing housing maintenance rarely get opportunity to do papering. How can we deal with this scenario?

This is a good example of where we can use simulation to provide the necessary evidence, and if needed apply the Skills Test content.

It was mentioned that any simulation undertaken would be preferred to still be completed on live sites, what if the element is not something that is typically completed on site, like joining/repairing textiles ?

Simulation must replicate site conditions, for example other trades working around the apprentice, and with time related restrictions. It does not physically need to be located on a construction site.

For the Floorcovering example specifically, the content of the Skills Test could be used to evidence the joining/repairing textile requirement of the SVQ.

Is a separate application for simulation needed per student? Or can a centre apply to use simulation generally?

And is there guidance on the specifics of how to apply for this.

The requirement is per apprentice as each set of individual circumstances vary, and each will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Awarding bodies will set their requirements and these policies and procedures must be followed (link below).

Do you have an example of this simulation that can be shared with all?

In one scenario, an employer set up simulation on a live site so an apprentice could set-out circular brickwork. This was recorded and observed by the assessor and the internal verifier. The EV could then review the recording later.

This could be replicated on any construction site.

Funding & Support

Who is going to fund the simulation that colleges may be required to pick up (e.g cost of materials etc)? This can be challenging when space is limited.

This would need to be discussed to understand further, and we ask centres to be open, and identify their needs (e.g. space, cost etc) as soon as possible so we can look at potential solutions.

Other

As an Assessor, do we have to hold a valid CSCS card to observe on sites as we are observing the apprentice rather than doing work for the site?

Some sites will require you to have a CSCS card, others will not. It will be the company/site manager's decision. It is not a formal requirement, but it is considered best practice.

Please see the CSCS website for further information. Please note – CSCS no longer offer the visitor card.

Does CITB still use the ATS (Apprenticeship Training Schedule) during the recruitment stage?

Not in all cases at the moment, as it is not a mandatory requirement. This will be reviewed.

Useful Links

[Official CSCS Website - CSCS to withdraw the Construction Site Visitor card](#)

- Information regarding the CSCS withdrawal of the visitor card

[Requirements for assessment of Scottish Vocational Qualifications \(SVQs\) in Construction](#)

- Appendix 1 of the SQA Doc gives more detail on the CITB SSC Assessment Strategy - Appendix C

Further useful links can be found in the presentations provided.

If you have any other questions, please email in to standards.qualifications@citb.co.uk we will continue to compile and update the FAQs over the next week or so.