

TESP Training & Qualifications Forum

Thursday 02 March 2023

Question & Answer log

IfATE questions / qualifications reform

How many apprentices pass the End Point Assessment? / How many pass first time?

The completion rate for the Installation & Maintenance Electrician apprenticeship is circa 74%. Rachel Cooper from IfATE commented that this was much better than the average for all apprenticeships.

Carolyn Mason commented that too many apprentices are still turning up for EPA stating they do not feel ready and have limited experience in some areas, despite the fact they, their provider and employer have all signed detailed checklists confirming full readiness.

What Level 2 qualifications are being looked at for entry to Domestic EWA?

The list is still being assembled but will cover many of those already identified for the current EWA. They will be robust, recognised technical qualifications, not short courses.

Is there any feedback on the outcome of the mandatory quals within apps standards?

IfATE said the consultation responses are still being reviewed.

EAS Queries

Is a QS who did the 2391 twenty years ago and just updated their understanding on BS 7671 since competent to sign off works on Solar, EVSE and Batteries etc? Without the training on the subjects?

The QS will also need to keep their competence current and up to date with CPD. NICEIC as a scheme provider looks at the CPD records for QS's to ensure they are keeping themselves up to date with the current requirements, and this could include training.

Will the NICEIC start using the EAS when carrying out annual audits checking quals against engineers who are carrying out EICR's, this would help ensure the industry is fully compliant.

Paul Collins advised NICEIC are currently updating assessment approaches that will focus on work categories - further information will be provided as this develops.

When will further information about updates for EICR staff be out?

Paul advised that work has begun on this via industry working groups and updates will be coming, probably towards the end of this year.

Apprenticeships Update

Is there any way for lecturers to improve their skills to cover the new requirements in the apprenticeships?

Abi Smith was unaware of any additional funded courses, but Awarding Organisations will supply any information required detailing qualification changes. TESP note post-event: A briefing for providers is currently being finalised and will be issued by C&G/EAL to their centres.

What about the proposed upgrade at the end of the Domestic Standard to the new revised Installation/ Maintenance standard? Also, would there be funding for this?

Work is beginning on bridging courses between the two standards. Funding for this has not yet been determined.

Is there much coverage of UPS systems and other stored energy systems in the new standard?

The knowledge of novel power storage systems (battery etc) is included as well as the basic skills to provide connections for novel power storage solutions.

I note the addition of digital skills in the updated standard - the demand for these skills is growing in UPS due to more advanced systems replacing legacy systems.

This is good to hear, the revisions support digital skills development in apprentice electricians, and we have made an application to IFATE to cover necessary software licences / training costs.

What is the funding band for the new standard?

We have requested an uplift to support the delivery of additional elements, but the final decision rests with the Minister of State.

What is meant by a top-up of renewable technologies after completing the apprenticeship? Does that mean an additional CPD qualification?

We mean extra courses an electrician might take after the apprenticeship as they develop and specialise throughout their career, so yes additional but not mandatory CPD quals.

Is the current 2357 and EAL equivalent being updated to better align with the new apprenticeship standard for those that are unable to complete a funded apprenticeship? Would this require another AM2 variant?

No, these qualifications will be defunded and eventually retired as part of the government's L3 qualifications reforms. Work is underway with employers to develop new, up to date "Occupational Entry" qualifications for 19+ learners which will closely align with the knowledge requirement within the industry apprenticeships. We are reviewing options for those learners who can't get an apprenticeship and do not wish to take a T level.

ECS Card Updates

We run L2 & L3 diplomas and NVQ3 which are self-funded and the learners find it hard to obtain a trainee card because they are not on a formal JIB route, can this be relaxed/addressed by the ECS (example - student on 1605 EAL NVQ3 with AM2 yet still can't get an ECS trainee card)

Any individual on a programme which leads to the award of a gold card will allow the individual / employer / training provider to apply as a Trainee. EAL Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Installing Electrotechnical Systems and Equipment (Buildings, Structures and the Environment) (QCF) is a recognised route. This may require Employer Endorsement as part of the application which will be sent electronically to the employer contact. Any individuals or training providers having difficulty with this are asked to contact feedback@ecscard.org.uk for investigation into their application. Work is also ongoing to map out new routes such as the Domestic Electrician standard and how this is to be integrated into the Apprenticeship Schemes and Craft Training Schemes for progression under ECS.

Apprentices are having issues getting Gold Card as ECS portal is not recognising 018 exam as now 022 with C&G. Also, no RPL route for 018 as closed Sept 22.

All City & Guilds qualifications are updated within the rules engine, which includes C&G 2382-22, and these are verified with City & Guilds by application programming interface. Electrical apprentices completing will need to evidence that the 18th Edition has been completed as part of the apprenticeship or separately.

Are we getting a 'Domestic Electrician' gold card for candidates who complete Domestic Apprenticeship/EWA?

Please see news story [here](#) regarding Domestic Electrician occupation. Once an EWA is launched, this will be reviewed against the mapping and submitted to the ECS Technical Evaluation Group for recommendation and the ECS Steering Committee for approval.

Will a college student studying the diploma or tech cert struggle to get a card?

An ECS card will be available but it will depend on what they are studying, what has already been achieved and their preference as to card type (i.e. what is applied for) as to their eligibility. For specific queries, individuals or colleges are encouraged to contact feedback@ecscard.org.uk

What will happen in 2024 when the (grandfather rights) expires? will there be a bridging module? we have already had this issue with the FESS and think we now have a solution however will we be in the same boat with the electrician cards?

There are now fewer than 50 individuals with valid Conditional Electrician cards (those achieved under "grandfather rights") and these are being phased out with regular communications to those people directly impacted. Please see news story [here](#). For those who are not able to be moved across to a more appropriate card type, funding is available from the JIB to undertake the Experienced Worker Assessment.