



ABBE LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA IN DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATES DipDEC



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OVERVIEW

The European Legislation which created the Domestic Energy Assessor also requires buildings that are either publicly owned or publicly accessed to have a Display Energy Certificate (DEC). Whilst the DEC has a one year lifespan, the advisory report which accompanies the DEC needs to be renewed every seven years.

Unlike the other Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs), DECs identify how energy efficiently the building is being operated, by assessing the actual energy usage and comparing it with benchmarks. DECs for these publicly owned or accessed buildings can only be produced by energy assessors who have qualified as Display Energy Certificate Energy Assessors and who hold a licence to practice. The most adaptable and flexible way to achieve this is to gain the ABBE DipDEC award. The number of buildings which need to be assessed is large, and the Government has decided that all buildings covered by this directive should be assessed by October 2008.

The ABBE Level 3 Diploma in Display Energy Certificates is aimed at those who wish to focus on large publicly owned or publicly accessed buildings. Like the other highly regarded ABBE energy and related awards, this level 3 qualification is based very closely on the National Occupational Standards developed specifically for this work. It has been designed to be simple to understand whilst ensuring candidates are well equipped to undertake this technically challenging role. The award has been developed in consultation with representatives from industry, the Sector Skills Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). As usual, with ABBE awards the emphasis is on quality not on expediency. More information about the Diploma can be downloaded from the ABBE website www.abbeqa.co.uk

WHAT SORT OF PERSON BECOMES A DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATES ASSESSOR?

A large number of DEC energy assessors will eventually be required to service the needs of industry. ABBE's awards enable new entrants and experienced practitioners to become qualified, though naturally the starting point will vary accordingly. For example, those who have backgrounds in energy management, facilities management, energy auditing etc. are ideally placed to enter this market and may complete their award more quickly. Domestic Energy Assessors and Home Inspectors will also find this award readily accessible after additional training. Those with no previous background will also find that they are able to enter this market, as an ABBE award with appropriate training will teach you all that you need to know to succeed in this role and not just qualify.

THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING A DISPLAY ENERGY CERTIFICATE ASSESSOR

You should register with one of ABBE's approved Assessment Centres. Details of all centres are available on the ABBE website - www.abbeqa.co.uk. Most centres operate nationally so their geographical location may not need to be your main concern.

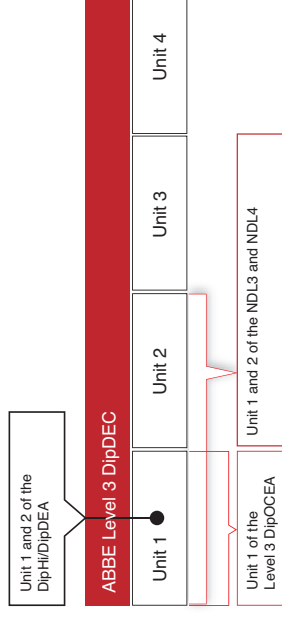
We would advise you to contact two or three centres for details to determine who can provide the service that best meets your needs. The assessment centres will help you through the process including registering you for the qualification with ABBE and, at the appropriate time, will allocate an assessor to you.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Assessment Centre costs will vary depending on a number of factors such as:
The level and depth of your previous experience. A new entrant will require more tuition than an Experienced Practitioner.
The way in which each assessment centre structures its delivery.
The level of support and guidance offered beyond the minimum and other services included in the assessment centres award package.

IF YOU HAVE ACHIEVED THE DipDEC WHAT COULD YOU DO NEXT?

Successful candidates of this award have a number of other career options. You will be able to widen your role by taking the Level 3 and then level 4 awards in Non Domestic Energy Assessment. In addition, you can opt to enter the Domestic sector via the well established Level 3 Diploma in Domestic Energy Assessment and the Level 4 Diploma in Home Inspection. ABBE's awards have been designed to maximise what you have already achieved and enable your achievement to count towards your next career move. The diagram below shows how you can use the units you have achieved in this qualification towards the other ABBE qualifications.



HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO ACHIEVE THE DIPLOMA?

If you have substantial prior knowledge and experience of similar work, the period could be as short as a few weeks. For candidates with no knowledge or experience, it could take several months. In either case, the duration of the training is also dependent in part on the way the training is delivered by your chosen assessment centre. Your centre will be able to advise you on this in more detail. The other factor that will affect how long you take to complete the award will be the amount of time and self motivation you can dedicate to achieving the award.

STARTING AND COMPLETING YOUR DIPLOMA

- 1.** Register with one of the ABBE approved Assessment Centres.
- 2.** Look at the requirements of the Diploma and compare your existing skills and experience against them. Identify any evidence from other sources, such as previously achieved qualifications, that could be used to satisfy parts of the ABBE DipDEC.
- 3.** With guidance from your assessment centre identify your skills gaps and undertake any training necessary to fill them. Keep a careful record of all the training you undertake, as the assessed outputs from this may prove useful to you in your portfolio.
- 4.** Begin the training and assessment needed to complete the units necessary for the diploma. The Assessment Centre will provide you with guidance on how best to compile your portfolio, such as making use of a Structured Professional Interview or utilizing evidence from previously achieved awards such as the DipDEA, DipHI or other sources.
- 5.** After acceptance of your portfolio, and successful completion of the examination, your Assessment Centre will obtain your ABBE DipDEC Certificate and send it to you.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Information about the Diploma including the reading list which supports underpinning knowledge for the Diploma can be downloaded from the ABBE website: www.abbeqa.co.uk See the Asset Skills Sector Skills Council website: www.assetskills.org
The CLG: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/theenvironment/energyperformance/whenmeasures>

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION

Whether you are an experienced practitioner or new entrant, you are required to reach the same level of performance as set out in the qualification handbook.

This details the standard that you need to demonstrate and the evidence requirements you will need to meet to prove your competence.

To assist, ABBE designs its awards to recognise the skills and abilities you may already have from other ABBE awards (such as the DipDEA or DipHI*) or via membership of specified professional bodies. Either of these options will enable you to cover the requirements of unit 1 of all the ABBE energy awards and more with some ABBE awards.

ABBE has done this by building its awards based upon a common core, with the specialist units stemming from this shared base. This means that if you choose to take other ABBE awards you will already be part way through, with only the evidence/training associated with the additional specialism to complete.

Details can be found in ABBE's award handbooks available online but your assessment centre will be able to advise further.

Irrespective of how you achieve the awards, the basic requirement to satisfactorily complete the four units and the external examination administered by ABBE remains. This includes the need for a minimum of three Display Energy Certificates based on the Operational Ratings energy calculation methodology [OR] to be submitted as evidence.

*Other awards/training are also recognised by ABBE. More details can be found in the award handbooks or the ABBE Accreditation of Prior Achievement [APA] Agreements available online.