

COVID-19

Guidance to Consolidated Assessment Strategy

Updated 25th June 2020

Appendix 3 of the consolidated assessment strategy has been updated to include extraordinary events. As a result appendix 3 can be used by awarding organisations to assist candidates and apprentices who have been made redundant, displaced or unable to generate evidence for their (S)NVQ.

This additional support and special assessment arrangements can be used for the period 1st July 2020 until 31st December 2020.

Context

1. COVID-19 has presented extraordinary circumstances that has required CITB to review the approach for the delivery of S/NVQ's and a temporary revision of the consolidated assessment strategy.
2. This addendum does not remove any requirement for the delivery of the learning outcome or assessment criteria detailed within any of the qualification standards that sit within the scope of the ConstructionSkills consolidated assessment strategy.

Approach

3. Awarding Organisations must ensure their centre's approach remains fit for purpose and delivers a robust assessment where learners evidence is Valid, Authentic and Sufficient to cover the learning outcomes and assessment criterion fully.
4. The delivery of S/NVQ often relies upon direct observation as the best form of evidence to support assessment decisions, during social distancing this method of assessment would not meet with the current government guidance. Therefore, assessors should be alive to other methods of assessment that would cover the requirements of the unit/qualification.
5. The assessment cycle must not change as a result of the COVID-19 situation, the learner and assessor must agree a '**PLAN**'. The assessment must be carried out **DO** and provide the assessor the confidence to make a decision about the learner's competence. The assessor must **FEEDBACK** their decision to the learner and finally **REVIEW** the progress towards competence.
6. The options available to assessors that should be promoted to centres during the COVID-19 outbreak are as follows;
7. **Video Link;**
 - 7.1. This is an option for all elements of the assessment process and communication with learners, witnesses and employers.
 - 7.2. The assessor must agree with all parties they agree to being recorded;

- 7.3. The date, time and location must be given to give context to the video;
- 7.4. The date and time must be stated at the end of the recording;
- 7.5. When being used as a tool for observation the assessor will need to be assured that the video is of the learner carrying out the work.
- 7.6. The video needs to be clear and at a distance that the task is clearly visible, and an assessment decision can be made confidently.
- 7.7. The video evidence must be accompanied by an assessment decision that demonstrates that the video evidence has been assessed and feedback given to the learner.
- 7.8. The video is of the actual work being carried out in real time and not a synopsis of the work done when completed (if being used as an observation)

8. Audio Link;

- 8.1. This is an option that can be used for all elements of the assessment process, with learners, witnesses and employers;
- 8.2. The assessor must introduce all members of the call and their role and purpose for the call;
- 8.3. The assessor must confirm that all members on the conference are happy to be recorded and the purpose of the recording;
- 8.4. The assessor must open the discussion with the time, date and location;
- 8.5. The assessor must close the discussion with end time and date;
- 8.6. When being used to capture a professional discussion, the assessor must be able to confidently validate and authenticate the evidence being provided to enable an assessment decision. Therefore, the assessor should have some other evidence to use to plan and drive the conversation;
- 8.7. This method is not suitable for observations;

9. Simulation

- 9.1. The use of simulation is not permitted during the period of lock down and must follow the requirements of the consolidated assessment strategy and specific units that make up the qualification.
- 9.2. CITB will issue further guidance after the COVID-19 social distancing to assist with displaced learners that may have lost their jobs during the crisis.

10. Plant Qualifications

- 10.1. Plant qualifications have a requirement specifically listed within the consolidated assessment strategy; these requirements have not changed. You must still require the assessment to include **all** the following;
- observation of performance by the assessor or assessors;
 - witness testimony or testimonies by an expert witness/witnesses;
 - professional discussion.
- 10.2. You may however use modern technologies to carry out the assessment using the mandatory methods of assessment detailed in paragraph 10.1
11. This document will be reviewed **30th December 2020** and extended, withdrawn or amended as required.