



Level 6 Award in

External Wall System Assessment

Qualification Specification

Qualification Recognition Number: 603/7267/9

ABBE Qualification Code: AwardEWSAL621

August 2024

This qualification specification was updated in August 2024; the following amendments were made:

Page 20 – the following information has been added:

Please note that learners can only attempt the examination twice. For the first attempt at the examination the learner will use the examination entry voucher; for the second attempt (their resit), the learner will apply to Pearson Vue directly and will pay the entry fee via BACS.

Learners who attempt to enter the examination more than twice will not have their results recognised. The fee paid to Pearson Vue will not be refunded.

Section 2.12

Pre course procedures amended to reflect the new eligibility status as mandated by RICS.

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1. ABBE

1.1 Introduction

ABBE, the Awarding Body for the Built Environment is a forward thinking organisation that offers a range of apprenticeships, qualifications, benefits and support.

ABBE is regulated by Ofqual for the delivery of a range of qualifications. Our qualifications are nationally recognised helping learners to achieve their full potential and ambitions.

The full range of qualifications can be found on our website.

1.2 Mission Statement

Our Values - Quality through Standards: Our aim is to provide a high quality experience by building a strong community of mutual support and trust. We can use our collective talents to build meaningful partnerships to help us all to achieve our goals. ABBE is a recognised Awarding Organisation with strong professional integrity.

Our Vision: Is that every learner is confident, successful and has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Our Mission: ABBE Educates, inspires and empowers learners

1.3 Qualification Specification

The aim of this specification is to provide learners and centres with information about the content of this qualification. This specification is a live document and, as such, will be updated when required.

1.4 Enquiries

Any enquiries relating to this qualification should be addressed to:

ABBE

Birmingham City University

University House

15 Bartholomew Row

Birmingham

B5 5JU

Tel: 0121 331 5173

Email: abbeenquiries@bcu.ac.uk

Website: www.abbeqa.co.uk



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2. Qualification Information

2.1 Qualification Purpose

The purpose of the ABBE Level 6 Award in External Wall System Assessment is to qualify professionals who will be required to complete future mandatory fire safety checks.

2.2 Who could take this Qualification?

This qualification requires that all applicants are Chartered Surveyors within Building Control or Building Surveying pathways who have been assessed against RICS competency framework defined in the respective pathway. Information on other routes to entry can be obtained directly from The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

2.3 Qualification Number

ABBE Level 6 Award in External Wall System Assessment: 603/7267/9

2.4 Qualification Level

This qualification has been listed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at: Level 6

2.5 Total Qualification Time

This qualification is allocated Total Qualification Time (TQT) this includes Guided Learning (GL) expressed in hours, which indicates the number of hours of supervised or directed study time and assessment. Credit has also be allocated to this qualification.

- The Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification is: 40
- Guided Learning (GL) for this qualification is: 40
- Credit Value: 4 credits

2.6 Progression

This qualification has been designed to encourage participation in education and training in other related areas by:

- Encouraging individuals to develop skills and enhance development and promotion prospects
- Allowing individuals with qualifications in similar fields to retrain in this discipline

2.7 Age ranges

Pre 16	No
16-18	No
18+	No
19+	Yes



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2.8 Structure of the Qualification

To achieve this qualification learners must complete the three mandatory units.

Mandatory Unit(s)			
URN	Unit Name	Credit Value	Level
T/618/6763	External Wall System Assessment Pre-Inspection	1	6
A/618/6764	External Wall System Assessment Inspection	2	6
F/618/6765	External Wall System Assessment Post Inspection Procedures	1	6

2.9 Barred Units

Units with the same title and unit number cannot be combined in the same qualification. Additionally, units with the same title or with the same content at different levels cannot be combined in the same qualification.

2.10 Language

ABBE qualifications and assessment materials will be provided through the medium of English.

2.11 Grading

This qualification is: Pass/Fail

2.12 Pre-course Procedures

This qualification requires that all applicants are Chartered Surveyors within Building Control or Building Surveying pathways who have been assessed against RICS competency framework defined in the respective pathway. The pathways are below:

- MRICS or FRICS who qualified via the Building Control or Building Surveying pathway
- CABE, CIAT or IFE – specific conditions for each
- AssocRICS who qualified via the Building Control pathway – (members qualifying through this pathway will have the required level of competency in the relevant areas)
- For AssocRICS, MRICS or FRICS who qualified via another pathway, successful completion of:
 - Fire safety technical competency course - <https://www.rics.org/training-events/training-courses/fire-safety-competency-module>
 - New preassessment MCQ
- Completing EWS1 forms following the qualification is no longer required, it can be used solely for the purpose of increasing knowledge



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3. Qualification Unit(s)

Unit 1: External Wall System Assessment Pre-Inspection

Unit Reference Number: T/618/6763

Level: 6

Credit: 1

GLH: 10

Unit Summary

This unit gives the legislative and regulatory context for EWS assessments and highlights the most relevant areas of the building regulations. It also covers how terms of engagement should be agreed for EWS assessments.

Assessment Guidance

For guidance, this unit is assessed using the following method(s):

- Online E Proctored Multiple Choice Examination

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand the legal and regulatory framework relevant to External Wall System (EWS) inspections in England and Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland
2. Understand the requirements of an effective engagement letters and terms of engagement



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Unit 2: External Wall System Assessment Inspection

Unit Reference Number: A/618/6764

Level: 6

Credit: 2

GLH: 20

Unit Summary

This unit focuses on the technical aspects of external wall construction, and the inspection and testing requirements for external wall assessments. It covers the most common materials and situations that assessors are likely to encounter.

Assessment Guidance

For guidance, this unit is assessed using the following method(s):

- Online E Proctored Multiple Choice Examination
- Written Assignment

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand the type of buildings in scope for this qualification
2. Be able to prepare for an intrusive inspection of building cladding
3. Be able to conduct an intrusive inspection of building cladding
4. Understand the testing requirements and background of BS476, BS8414, BS9414 and BR 135 and understand the limitations and deficiencies in BS8414
5. Understand construction materials products and installation methodology in external walls



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Unit 3: External Wall System Assessment Post Inspection Procedures

Unit Reference Number: F/618/6765

Level: 6

Credit: 1

GLH: 10

Unit Summary

This unit is focussed on the general considerations for completing an EWS1 form and writing a report for the client. It covers the other risk factors to be considered (other than the external wall) and what goes into an effective report.

Assessment Guidance

For guidance, this unit is assessed using the following method(s):

- Online E Proctored Multiple Choice Examination
- Written Assignment

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand fire safety mitigation factors (excluding external wall systems) and their impact on the EWS1 assessment
2. Understand the scope, purpose and stakeholders involved in EWS1 forms
3. Know the scope, purpose and stakeholders involved in PAS9980
4. Be able to identify the scope and purpose of the EWS1 form Options
5. Know the purpose and cost of recommendations for remediation and the potential for other options
6. Understand the interaction between the EWS assessment and the holistic FRA of the whole building; and how timescales will need to be advised to the client
7. Be able to prepare and complete and EWS report



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