



# **Level 3 Certificate for Certificated Surveyor in Timber and Dampness (CSTDB)**

## Qualification Specification

610/4373/4  
CertSTDBL324

July  
2024

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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 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 at [www.abbqa.co.uk](http://www.abbqa.co.uk)

## 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  
Curzon Building  
4 Cardigan Street  
Birmingham  
B4 7BD

Tel: 0121 331 5174

Email: [abbeenquiries@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:abbeenquiries@bcu.ac.uk)

Website: [www.abbqa.co.uk](http://www.abbqa.co.uk)



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## 2. Qualification Information

### 2.1 Qualification Purpose

Achievement of the ABBE Level 3 Certificated Surveyor of Timber and Dampness in Buildings (CSTDB) qualification demonstrates that the learner has obtained a base level of knowledge and understanding of diagnosing defects and the necessary treatments within the building preservation sector.

### 2.2 Who could take this Qualification?

This qualification is aimed at those already working within the construction/preservation sector looking to achieve recognition for their knowledge and abilities. This qualification is NOT recommended to those with little or no experience in surveying or construction. It is recommended that learners complete a series of training courses (Surveying Timber and Dampness in Buildings, PCA Health & Safety E-learning course and CSTDB Exam Preparation course) to help prepare for the examinations.

### 2.3 Qualification Number

ABBE Level 3 Certificated Surveyor of Timber and Dampness in Buildings (CSTDB):  
610/4373/4

### 2.4 Qualification Level

This qualification has been listed on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) at: Level 3

### 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 been allocated to this qualification.

- The Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification is: 210
- Guided Learning (GL) for this qualification is: 58
- Credit Value: 21 credits

### 2.6 Age ranges

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

### 2.7 Structure of the Qualification

To achieve this qualification, learners must achieve all three mandatory units.

Mandatory Unit(s)				
Unit No.	URN	Unit name	Level	Credit value
1	A/651/2166	Legal, Health & Safety Aspects for the Investigation and Control of Timber & Dampness in Buildings	3	5
2	D/651/2167	The Identification and Control of Dampness	3	7



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3	F/651/2168	The Identification and in-situ Treatment of Infested and Decayed Timber	3	9
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## 2.8 Barred Units

Units with the same title and unit number cannot be combined in the same qualification.

There are no barred units within this qualification.

## 2.9 Grading

This qualification is graded Fail, Pass, Distinction. In order to successfully pass the qualification with a Pass, learners must achieve at least 50% in all units. In order to successfully pass the qualification with a Distinction, learners must achieve at least 70% in all units.

The grade achieved has no effect on the credit value of the qualification. The lowest grade achieved will determine the overall grade of the qualification.

### Grading Scales:

FAIL – Below 50% on **any** unit

PASS – 50% or above on **all** units

DISTINCTION – 70% or above on **all** units



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## 3. Qualification Unit(s)

### **Unit 1 – Legal, Health & Safety Aspects for the Investigation and Control of Timber & Dampness in Buildings**

Unit reference Number: A/651/2166

Level: 3

Credit: 5

GLH: 14

#### **Learning outcomes:**

1. Understand the legal implications of surveying a property and the production of a report
2. Understand the risk assessments required to ensure safe working practices
3. Understand product selection to ensure safe working practices
4. Understand Safe Methods of use of products



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## **Unit 2 – The Identification and Control of Dampness**

Unit reference Number: D/651/2167

Level: 3

Credit: 7

GLH: 20

### **Learning outcomes:**

1. Understand building construction, with a focus on masonry in all types of buildings in the United Kingdom
2. Understand the theory of moisture movement and the practical methods of diagnosing dampness in buildings
3. Understand the principles of surveying and reporting on dampness within buildings
4. Understand the methods of control, product safety, and safe use
5. Understand the ancillary and supporting procedures and other methods which are employed in the control of dampness



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### **Unit 3 – The Identification and in-situ Treatment of Infested and Decayed Timber**

Unit reference Number: F/651/2168

Level: 3

Credit: 9

GLH: 24

#### **Learning outcomes:**

1. Understand building construction, with a focus on joinery and timbers in all types of building within the United Kingdom
2. Know the structure and composition of wood
3. Understand the principles of surveying and reporting on timber defects within buildings
4. Be able to identify wood destroying insects
5. Be able to identify the presence of fungi in buildings
6. Understand the application and safe use of timber preservatives



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