



CERTIFICATE IN PACKAGING

Introduction

The Certificate in Packaging is a nationally recognised qualification for those embarking on a career in the packaging industry, or for those who typically interface with some aspect of packaging handling or management. The qualification is broad, and provides an opportunity to study the principles of packaging, packaging materials and packaging processes. Students can study for the complete qualification, or individual units if they prefer. To achieve the full Certificate, candidates need to successfully complete the mandatory unit, and any four of the twelve elective units.

Courses leading to the Certificate can be organised by providers who have gained Centre and Scheme approval by the Packaging Industry Awarding Body Company (PIABC). To achieve this they need to apply to PIABC and to demonstrate their ability to deliver high quality education leading to the qualification. Centres are expected to employ robust quality assurance processes, and PIABC will appoint its own moderators to ensure the effective operation of these processes, and the maintenance of standards of quality.

The Certificate in Packaging is a nationally recognised qualification that provides learners with a broad knowledge of the principles, materials, processes and other elements of packaging production and use. Those achieving the Certificate will be able to apply this knowledge to solving problems and making decisions associated with the technical and aesthetic performance, cost, safety and legality of packaging materials and packed products.

Candidates will normally be at least 16 years of age and will be expected to have achieved 5 GCSEs at grade A – C, or an equivalent Level 2 qualification, or have relevant experience in a related work area plus Level 2 skills in numeracy, communications and IT.

Overall, it is expected that courses leading to the qualification will take approximately 64 hours. In addition, students will be expected to carry out additional reading and other work to complete each unit.

Success in this qualification prepares students for progression in the packaging and related industries to a position where they can progress to the Diploma in Packaging Technology.

Award summary

The course is divided into one mandatory unit and four elective units:

Mandatory Unit

A: Understanding Packaging

Elective Units

B1: Legislation in Packaging
B2: Understanding Packaging Line Operations
B3: Understanding the Hazards of Warehousing and Distribution
B4: Packaging Design and Marketing
B5: Paper and Board Packaging
B6: Plastics Packaging
B7: Flexible Packaging
B8: Printing of Packaging
B9: Labelling and Coding
B10: Corrugated Board Packaging
B11: Rigid Plastics Packaging
B12: Environmental Aspects of Packaging

This specification contains a description of each of the units, including its intended learning outcomes, structure, assessment and performance criteria. Assessment is in the form of a written examination for the mandatory unit, and an assignment for each elective unit, both of which are marked externally.

Within each of the units there are opportunities for the development of a range of key skills and other learning opportunities, which can be devised by approved centres that offer courses leading to the qualification.