



NVQ Level 2 for Packaging Operators
Qualification Specification – Executive Summary

Introduction

The National Vocational Qualification Level 2 for Packaging Operators aims to provide work-based learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to meet quality, safety, legal and cost requirements of packaged products.

It is designed for individuals who work in automated or manual packaging situations and will:

1. Enhance the competence and job satisfaction of *learners* and provide them with a means of progression to higher level qualifications, as well as job movement throughout the packer/filler sector and other related areas of the packaging industry.
2. Provide *employers* with an open and rigorous training structure as well as a transparent basis for judging the suitability of candidates for employment and promotion.

Target group

The target group are packaging operators who are required to carry out one or more tasks associated with packaging operations from the preparation of materials and equipment prior to starting the process, through production of finished products, to close down. They work as part of a team, with guidance and/or supervision, and need to build up skills and knowledge to complete their work tasks, so that finished products are of acceptable quality.

Although there are no formal qualifications needed to start, as a guide those with the following are likely to have the potential to gain the qualification. NVQ Level 1, 5 GCSEs at Grade D-G (or equivalent), or experience that indicates ability to succeed. It is also essential that candidates work in an automated or manual packaging situation.

Qualification Structure

The qualification is made up of a core of six units and fourteen optional units. To achieve this qualification learners must successfully complete the six core plus two optional units.

Core Units

- Respond to incidents, hazardous conditions and emergencies
- Work safely
- Working effectively in a team

and either

- Start packaging operations
- Control packaging operations
- End packaging operations

. . . or

- Start specialist packaging run
- Control specialist packaging run
- Stop specialist packaging run

Optional Units:

- Work in aseptic or clean room conditions
- Prepare and clean area and equipment
- Control printed materials
- Control materials movement
- Carry out routine machine changeover
- Prepare for packaging testing or sampling
- Carry out packaging testing or sampling
- Record packaging testing or sampling
- Solve processing problems
- Enable learning through demonstration and instruction
- Produce by process operation
- Maintain hygiene standards in handling and storing food products
- Work with hazardous materials
- Contributing to improving effectiveness in the workplace

Assessment

Assessment which focuses on the performance of individuals in the workplace will be made against specified criteria, which relate to the National Occupational Standards for packaging.

There are many potential sources of evidence through which workplace competence may be judged for example, observation, oral and written questioning, witness statements and discussions.

Assessment takes place on at least three occasions across a range of different conditions in order to ensure that there is sufficient evidence to judge consistent performance against the National Occupational Standards.

Assessment is carried out by trained and qualified work place assessors under the supervision of internal verifiers and of PIABC. Candidates are required to keep a record of their assessment evidence.

Progression

Success in this qualification prepares learners for progression to a position where they can carry out supervision and training of other packaging operators. The qualification will also provide learners with an entry requirement to enrol on a Level 3 qualification, such as the Certificate in Packaging