



# **PIABC LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE IN PACKAGING**

Qualification Number 600/0455/1

## **Qualification Specification**

Updated: 15 June 2020

## **PURPOSE**

The PIABC Level 3 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 provides learners with a broad knowledge of the principles, materials, processes and other elements of packaging production and use.

Those achieving the PIABC Level 3 Certificate in Packaging 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.

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

The Certificate can also provide a very useful complementary qualification for those on HNC/D, foundation degree or other higher education programmes in packaging design, food science/technology, materials science/engineering, and logistics.

## **GENERAL OUTCOMES**

The general objectives of the PIABC Level 3 Certificate in Packaging are to:

1. Provide those employed in the Packaging and related industries with the skills, knowledge and understanding to underpin and enhance job experience.
2. Provide learners with a portable qualification to enable job movement throughout the industry.
3. Provide learners with a means of progression to higher level qualifications, e.g. PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology and other Level 4/5 qualifications
4. Provide employers throughout the Packaging and related industries with a firm basis for judging suitability of candidates
5. Raise the status of those employed in the Packaging and related industries.

## **TARGET GROUP**

This Level 3 qualification is appropriate for those wanting to enhance their employment and progression opportunities in the packaging and related industries. For example, candidates may be:

- Key personnel who handle and use packaging e.g. line operators, supervisors, maintenance engineers
- Personnel who liaise with specifiers, users and handlers of packaging e.g. quality control and assurance personnel, designers, marketing personnel, sales executives
- Personnel who liaise with packaging suppliers, other than those with direct responsibility for specifications, e.g. buyers, production planners, warehousing and distribution personnel
- New recruits to the manufacturing and packaging industries, who need an introduction to the broad subject of Packaging
- Those looking for a broad qualification in packaging as a basis for career development

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

As a guide for entry onto programmes, candidates will normally be expected to have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade A – C (or equivalent), plus the key skills of numeracy, communication and information technology. Alternatively, substantial relevant industrial experience may also be the basis for successful study.

## **PROGRESSION**

Success in this qualification prepares candidates for progression in the packaging industry to a position where they can assume extra responsibility in a company at any point in the supply chain. Success also provides the student with a qualification that enables them to progress on to the PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology and other higher-level qualifications.

## **STAFFING**

It is expected that staff involved with the delivery of the certificate will be appropriately qualified or experienced in packaging. The PIABC Centre and Award approval processes require prospective centres to provide details of the staff involved in delivery and assessment including their qualifications and relevant training/employment experience, plus staff development arrangements. Whilst these details are passed on to the external moderator appointed by the Awarding Organisation, it is the Centre's responsibility to ensure tutors' qualifications are both bona fide and appropriate to the level of the qualification.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

PIABC requires that each centre has a quality assurance and enhancement procedure in respect of the programme, and a means of monitoring its implementation.

There should be an award team that is responsible for preparing an annual self-assessment of the programme and for monitoring the improvement measures resulting from this.

This self-assessment process should use evidence from different sources including:

- Candidate self-evaluation
- The views of external individuals and organisations, for example those companies sending learners
- Staff working on the award

In addition, it is also expected that there will be an internal moderation procedure to ensure standardisation of unit delivery. This will include the following elements:

- Classroom observation
- Peer review of award materials
- Moderation of any internally assessed elements

There should be a named and appropriately qualified individual (Centre Co-ordinator) who has the necessary authority, with whom the awarding body can liaise directly on all matters of management, administration and quality assurance.

## **EXTERNAL MODERATION**

PIABC will appoint external centre monitors to visit centres in order to ensure the maintenance of standards of quality. The role of the centre monitor includes:

- Liaison between the centre and PIABC to ensure standardisation in terms of the quality of award delivery
- Providing advice and support for the Centre in understanding and implementing the requirements of the units and the PIABC

Centre monitors will carry out at least one visit to each centre per year and will formally report on the outcome of this visit to the Centre and PIABC. All items contained in the report will be discussed with the Centre during the visit, and any action that the Centre needs to take will be agreed at that stage.

Any visits in addition to the annual visit may incur an additional fee.

## **PROGRAMME ORGANISATION**

It is anticipated that the qualification will require a minimum of 64 guided learning hours for satisfactory completion.

The organisation of the award is at the discretion of the Centre and will consider the aims, aspirations and experience of the candidates.

Centres are encouraged to choose the most suitable curriculum model for their candidates. Whilst the sequential delivery of units is a possibility and may provide the most straightforward way of determining completion of individual units, it may be that some degree of integration of units will occur. It should be noted however that each unit will be individually assessed.

Centres must ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for supporting candidates. This could be either through separate tutorial sessions or through the use of time within structured study sessions. Centres using on-line or other forms of open learning must ensure that appropriate tutorial support is provided for candidates.

In relevant circumstances, centres are recommended to provide information and guidance to their candidates on the availability and type of employment the programme may lead to and on the progression routes available for further education and training in packaging.

Overall, it is expected that units leading to the qualification will take approximately 64 taught hours. In addition, candidates will be expected to carry out additional reading and other work to complete each unit. It is likely that this will add up to a total of 160 hours of study for the qualification.

## **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY AND METHODS**

Packaging is a practical subject, based on theoretical principles. As far as possible, it is important that the units are taught by relating the underlying theory to practical examples and applications. Two factors which will help in this regard are:

1. The use of lecturers with direct experience in the packaging and related industries. Specifically, for the option units, lecturers with experience in the relevant packaging sector are likely to offer the most appropriate level of practical knowledge. This must, of course, be balanced against a sound understanding of the theoretical principles, as anecdotal experience alone is unlikely to meet the requirements of the units.
2. Wherever possible, the use of case studies and illustrations of processes should be used as part of the teaching regime. A further and invaluable source of information is the Internet and there are many web sites which demonstrate important aspects of packaging manufacture and use. Lecturers should be encouraged to use this material, always making sure due acknowledgment is given to the source.

Those learners employed in the packaging and related industries, will come to the programme with varying levels of existing knowledge and/or practical experience of some parts of the syllabus. Lecturers should utilise this, through group work and other structured interactive activities, thus encouraging the sharing of knowledge which has the potential to lead to a high level of understanding.

## **QUALIFICATION LEVEL**

The Certificate in Packaging is a Level 3 qualification.

Candidates require the skills, knowledge and understanding in applying technical, aesthetic and commercial principles to a range of tasks.

Candidates are required to analyse problems and suggest effective solutions.

This qualification requires the learner to understand various elements in the packaging process, for example packaging design, materials and production methods. It will prepare the learner to operate in selected parts of the packaging supply chain. The qualification also prepares

candidates to make judgements about alternative solutions to packaging problems, and to identify the critical factors associated with them.

When work for this qualification is assessed, it is important to realise that evidence will be sought which demonstrates these features.

### Level 3 Level Descriptor

Achievement at Level 3 reflects the ability to identify and use relevant understanding, methods and skills to complete tasks and address problems that, while well defined, have a measure of complexity. It includes taking responsibility for initiating and completing tasks and procedures as well as exercising autonomy and judgement within limited parameters.

It also reflects awareness of different perspectives or approaches within an area of study or work.

*Source: Level descriptors for positioning units in the Qualifications and Credit Framework tests and trials. Version 2: 2006. QCA.*

### QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

In designing the certificate, the QCF principles of unit design have been applied (i.e. each unit has an informative title, a level, a credit value, learning outcomes and assessment criteria). The assessment process is based on those learning outcomes and assessment criteria. The learning and teaching strategy must be designed so that candidates have the opportunity to meet the learning outcomes in an effective manner by demonstrating that they can achieve the assessment criteria.

Structure information: To achieve the qualification the learner needs to achieve 16 credits; mandatory unit (8 credits) and then choose from the 12 optional units to gain a minimum of 8 credits. For example: The minimum of 8 credits can be made up of any combination of units (3 x 3 credits = 9 credits, 4 x 2 credits = 8 credits or 2 x 3 credits + 1 x 2 credits)

Ofqual Unit No.	Unit Title	Unit Level	Unit Credit	Guided Learning Hours
R/502/5925	Unit A The fundamental principles of packaging	3	8	32
Y/502/5926	Unit B1 Packaging legislation, standards and regulations	3	3	10
D/502/5927	Unit B2 Packaging line operations	3	2	6
H/502/5928	Unit B3 Packaging and the hazards of storage and distribution	3	2	6
K/502/5929	Unit B4 The relationship between packaging design and marketing	3	2	6
D/502/5930	Unit B5 The properties, manufacture and use of paper and carton board as packaging materials	3	3	10
H/502/5931	Unit B6 The properties, manufacture and use of rigid plastic packaging	3	3	10

M/502/5933	Unit B7	The properties, manufacture and use of flexible packaging materials	3	3	10
T/502/5934	Unit B8	The use of printing and decoration for packaging	3	3	10
R/502/5942	Unit B9	The use of labelling and coding for packaging materials	3	2	6
H/502/5959	Unit B10	The properties, manufacture and use of corrugated board in packaging	3	3	10
J/502/5971	Unit B11	The properties, manufacture and uses of rigid metal in packaging	3	3	10
Y/502/5974	Unit B12	The properties, manufacture and use of glass in packaging	3	3	10

The pass threshold for units is not subject to change.

### **QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATION**

The full award is available at *Pass, Merit or Distinction* to candidates who successfully complete all the units.

The overall grading structure for the qualification is not subject to change.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Please contact PIABC Limited directly at:

PIABC Limited, The Boilerhouse, Springfield Business Park, Caunt Road, Grantham, NG31 7FZ

Tel: 01476 513884

Email: [piabc@iom3.org](mailto:piabc@iom3.org)