



PIABC LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE IN PACKAGING

Qualification Number: 610/0741/9

Summary Specification

Created: 15 February 2023

INTRODUCTION

PIABC Level 3 Certificate in Packaging (QN: 610/0741/9) is a nationally recognised packaging qualification. This third version of the PIABC Limited (PIABC) qualification was reviewed and updated in 2022 to ensure that it remained current and appropriate for the needs of those employed within the packaging industry and associated industries.

PURPOSE

Its main purpose is to provide learners embarking on a career in the packaging industry, or for those who typically interface with some aspect of packaging handling or management.

Those achieving the PIABC Level 3 Certificate in Packaging (QN: 610/0741/9) 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 (QN: 610/0741/9) 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. PIABC's centre and qualification 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 PIABC, 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 a qualification 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 qualification.

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 qualification 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 PIABC can liaise directly on all matters of management, administration, and quality assurance.

EXTERNAL MODERATION

PIABC will appoint external centre monitors to undertake external quality assurance activities with the centres in order to ensure the maintenance of standards of quality.

PROGRAMME ORGANISATION

It is anticipated that the qualification will require a minimum of 35 guided learning hours for satisfactory completion.

The organisation of the qualification 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.

Centres must ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for supporting candidates. This could be either through separate tutorial sessions or using 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 35 guided learning 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 139 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.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Please refer to “*Access to Assessment – Arrangements for Candidates Needing Reasonable Adjustments, Special Consideration and/or Extenuating Circumstances in the Assessment Process*” document for more information. A copy is available from the PIABC team at piabc@iom3.org.

In carrying out assessments, PIABC’s policy is to give all candidates equal opportunity to demonstrate attainment and to provide candidates with disabilities, learning difficulties and other problems the same access to assessment as other candidates.

Assessment arrangements maybe varied however, where the standards permit, for candidates with particular requirements. These requirements may take the form of special condition/extenuating circumstances for candidates whose needs are covered by the Equality Act 2010 or extenuating circumstances for those whose needs result from temporary disability or indisposition such as short-term illness.

In general, variation in assessment arrangements may be needed for physical disability, visual impairment, hearing impairment, specific learning difficulty, medical conditions, and use of English as a second language.

The nature of any special arrangements depends largely upon the qualification being followed and the assessment strategy employed. For scheduled fixed date examinations, then arrangements must be agreed directly with PIABC. For assessments at Level 3 and above, centres must write to PIABC to request concessions at least two months before the assessment.

Concessions will be limited by specification and assessment requirements and supporting evidence will be required.

QUALIFICATION LEVEL

The Certificate in Packaging is a Level 3 qualification.

LEVEL 3 DESCRIPTOR

Summary

The descriptors set out the generic knowledge and skills associated with the typical holder of a qualification at level 3. The level descriptors are framed as outcomes and each category starts with a stem statement (“the holder can...”) which then links into the outcomes associated with each level of the framework.

Knowledge descriptor (the holder...)

- Has factual, procedural and theoretical knowledge and understanding of a subject or field of work to complete tasks and address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine.
- Can interpret and evaluate relevant information and ideas.
- Is aware of the nature of the area of study or work.
- Is aware of different perspectives or approaches within the area of study or work.

Skills descriptor (the holder...)

- Identify, select and use appropriate cognitive and practical skills, methods and procedures to address problems that while well-defined, may be complex and non-routine.
- Use appropriate investigation to inform actions.
- Review how effective methods and actions have been.

Source: Ofqual Handbook: General Conditions of Recognition. Condition E9 - Qualification and Component Levels. Level Requirements (including level descriptors). Ofqual Updated 12 May 2022.

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

Learners must achieve 14 credits - this equates to achieving all the following mandatory units:

- Unit A - Role and functions of packaging
- Unit B - Packaging development process
- Unit C - Packaging sustainability
- Unit D - Packaging materials and formats
- Unit E - Printing & decoration processes
- Unit F - Packing line operations

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed by one 2-hour short answer examination and one 3,000-word written assignment.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATION

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact PIABC Limited directly at:

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