



PIABC LEVEL 5 CERTIFICATE IN PACKAGING MATERIALS

Qualification Number: 601/5008/7

Qualification Specification

Updated: 15 January 2020

PURPOSE

The PIABC Level 5 Certificate in Packaging Materials qualification has been designed to support those wishing to pursue a career in the packaging industry, or for those who are already in the industry and who wish to extend their knowledge and expertise by providing an opportunity to study in detail of packaging materials and manufacturing processes and conversion processes used for high volume materials.

This qualification should enable a student to use the practical, theoretical or technological understanding and skill learnt to be able to make informed decisions on complex packaging material problems and to take responsibility for planning and developing appropriate courses of action.

The qualification provides a useful complementary qualification for those on HNC/D or degree programmes in packaging design, food science/technology, and materials science/engineering.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

The general objectives of the PIABC Level 5 Certificate in Packaging Materials are to:

1. Provide those employed, or who wish to be employed in the packaging and related industries with the skills, knowledge and understanding to underpin and enhance job experience.
2. Provide students with a portable qualification to enable job movement throughout the industry.
3. Provide employers throughout the packaging and related industries with a firm basis for judging suitability of students.
4. Raise the status of those employed in the packaging and related industries.

TARGET GROUP

This Level 5 qualification is appropriate for those wanting to enhance their employment and progression opportunities in the packaging and related industries.

There are thus two broad target groups:

1. People currently employed in parts of the industry who want to broaden their knowledge and understanding and take on greater levels of responsibility. Due to the diverse nature of the packaging and related industries, it is difficult to define this target group in terms of precise job functions. Typically, students are likely to be working at the practitioner or manager level in any of the following disciplines:

Discipline	Type of company
Technical	Packaging manufacturer Packer/filler Retail
Technical sales/marketing	Packaging manufacturer Packaging machinery manufacturer
Quality assurance	Packaging manufacturer Packer/filler
Purchasing	Packer/filler Retail
Engineering	Packer/filler Packaging machinery manufacturer
Design	Design Agency Packaging manufacturer Packer/filler Retail

2. People who are not currently employed in the packaging industry, which may be following courses in associate subject areas such as packaging design, food science/technology, and materials science/engineering, will find that this programme broadens the scope of their studies.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

As a guide for entry onto programmes, candidates will normally be expected to have a minimum attainment of:

- 1 GCE A level and 5 GCSEs at grade A – C, including one science subject, plus the key skills of numeracy, communication and information technology;
- PIABC Level 3 Certificate in Packaging.

Alternatively, candidates should be able to clearly demonstrate, for example through experience in the packaging industry, which they are likely to succeed in the programme of study.

PROGRESSION

Students who successfully complete this qualification can progress to the PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology and gain exemption for the PIABC Diploma in Packaging Technology's Unit 2 Packaging Materials and Components (Paper A) examination.

STAFFING

It is expected that staff involved with the delivery of the course will be appropriately qualified and/or experienced in packaging. The PIABC approval process requires 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 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 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 students
- 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 40 guided learning hours for satisfactory completion. The organisation of the award is at the discretion of the Centre and will take into account the aims, aspirations and experience of the students. Centres are encouraged to choose the most suitable curriculum model for their students.

Centres must ensure that adequate arrangements are in place for supporting students. 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 students.

In relevant circumstances, centres are recommended to provide information and guidance to their students 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.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY, METHODS & ASSESSMENT

Packaging materials is a practical subject, based on theoretical principles. As far as possible, it is important that the course is 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. For this qualification, lecturers with experience in the relevant packaging manufacturing (converter) 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 qualification.
2. Factory visits should be undertaken where students can make the link between theoretical principles and practical applications. Familiarity with different packaging settings will be assumed in elements of the qualification's assessment. DVD illustrations of processes should also 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 students employed in the packaging and related industries, will come to the course 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.

The relation of theory and practice is a theme that will be reflected in the assessment for the programme as a whole. Therefore, in structured learning and individual work, students should be aware of the requirement to develop a practical dimension to their understanding.

QUALIFICATION LEVEL

The Certificate in Packaging Materials is a Level 5 qualification.

Students require the skills, knowledge and understanding to show competence in applying technical, aesthetic and commercial principles to a range of complex and varying tasks.

Students are required to analyse problems, determine root cause, and recommend and implement effective solutions, with a substantial degree of personal responsibility and accountability.

Students may have direct responsibility for others or may have responsibilities within a team.

Level 5 Descriptor

Summary

Achievement at level 5 reflects the ability to identify and use relevant understanding, methods and skills to address broadly defined, complex problems. It includes taking responsibility for planning and developing courses of action as well as exercising autonomy and judgement within broad parameters. It also reflects understanding of different perspectives, approaches or schools of thought and the reasoning behind them.

Knowledge and Understanding

- Use practical, theoretical or technological understanding to find ways forward in broadly defined, complex contexts
- Analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant information, concepts and ideas.
- Be aware of the nature and scope of the area of study or work
- Understand different perspectives, approaches or schools of thought and the reasoning behind them

Application and action

- Address broadly defined, complex problems.
- Determine, adapt and use appropriate methods and skills
- Use relevant research or development to inform actions
- Evaluate actions, methods and results

Autonomy and accountability

- Take responsibility for planning and developing courses of action, including, where relevant, responsibility for the work of others
- Exercise autonomy and judgment within broad parameters

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

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

In designing the qualification, 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 students have the opportunity to meet the learning outcomes in an effective manner by demonstrating that they can achieve the assessment criteria.

The PIABC Level 5 Certificate in Packaging Materials has one mandatory unit:

Ofqual Unit No.	Title	Unit Level	Unit Credit	Guided Learning Hours
J/502/5923	Unit PM1 Packaging Materials	5	13	40

ASSESSMENT

This unit is assessed by a written examination of 3 hours and consist of questions written against the learning outcomes.

This is a graded unit with pass, merit and distinction being available.

In order to gain a pass in the unit students must meet all the learning outcomes and achieve an overall mark of 50-59%.

In order to gain a merit in the unit students must meet all the learning outcomes and achieve an overall mark of 60-69%.

In order to gain a distinction in the unit students must meet all the learning outcomes and achieve an overall mark of 70%+.

The grading structure for the unit is not subject to change.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATION

The qualification is available at *Pass*, *Merit* or *Distinction* to students who successfully complete the Packaging Material unit.

The following percentages will determine the overall qualification grade:

- Pass 50 – 59%
- Merit 60 – 69%
- Distinction 70%+

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