



PIABC LEVEL 5 DIPLOMA IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY

Qualification Number: 600/0017/X

Qualification Specification

Updated: 15 January 2020

PURPOSE

The PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology is a nationally recognised qualification. Its main purpose is to provide learners with a broad knowledge of the principles, materials, processes and other elements of packaging production and use. Those achieving the Diploma 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.

Success in this qualification prepares students for progression in the packaging industry to a position where they can assume responsibility for packaging in a company at any point in the supply chain.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

The general objectives of the PIABC Level 5 Diploma in Packaging Technology 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 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. MSc, MBA.
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 5 qualification is appropriate for those wanting to enhance their employment and progression opportunities in the packaging and related industries.

There are 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, candidates 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 industry, who may be following courses in associate subject areas such as packaging design, food science/technology, materials science/engineering, and logistics, 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

Success in this qualification prepares students for progression in the packaging industry to a position where they can assume responsibility for packaging in a company at any point in the supply chain.

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 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 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 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 120 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 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, or that other methods of delivery are more appropriate to meet the needs of candidates. 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.

GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY, METHODS & ASSESSMENT

Packaging technology 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. Specifically, for “Packaging Materials and Components”, 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 course.
2. Factory visits should be undertaken, to packaging manufacturers and users where learners can see packaging processes and 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.

Whilst all units are designed to be “stand alone” some items for example sustainability, quality and legislation appear as common themes across more than one unit. This should be recognised by tutors and links made in those cases where candidates are working across more than a single unit.

Those learners 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 assessments for each unit and for the programme as a whole. Therefore, in structured learning and individual work, candidates should be aware of the requirement to develop a practical dimension to their understanding.

QUALIFICATION LEVEL

PIABC Diploma in Packaging Technology is a Level 5 qualification.

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

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

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

This qualification requires the learner to understand complex elements from the packaging process, for example packaging design, materials and production methods, and how these combine in practical packaging operations. It will prepare the learner to operate as a professional packaging technologist and/or manager in companies in different parts of the packaging supply chain, where they will be expected to be able to deal with new and novel problems. The qualification also prepares students to advise others about alternative appropriate solutions to packaging problems, and to identify the critical factors associated with the advice that is given.

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

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 diploma, 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.

The diploma is divided into four units as shown below:

Ofqual Unit No.	Title	Unit Level	Unit Credit	Guided Learning Hours
A/502/5921	Unit 1 Packaging in Today's World	5	10	25
J/502/5923	Unit 2 Packaging Materials and Components	5	18	55
L/502/5924	Unit 3 Packaging Processes	5	10	32
F/502/5922	Unit 4 Packaging Related Research Project	5	10	10

ASSESSMENT

Title	Assessment Method
Unit 1 Packaging in Today's World	1 written examination
Unit 2 Packaging Materials and Components	2 written examinations (Papers A & B)
Unit 3 Packaging Processes	1 written examination
Unit 4 Packaging Related Research Project	5,000 worded project

The grading structure for these 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:

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