

Employer Briefing

The QCF and new Qualifications

What is the QCF?

QCF is the Qualifications and Credits Framework, the new framework for creating and accrediting qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

How do QCF qualifications differ from current vocational qualifications?

- QCF recognizes achievement through the award of credit for units and qualifications. Learners can progress and gain full qualifications in smaller steps through the accumulation of credits.
- QCF qualifications are designed with the help of employers and Sector Skills Councils so they come with the assurance that learners are gaining skills that employers and their businesses need.
- QCF is referenced to the European Qualifications Framework which will enable easier cross-referencing of qualifications between EU countries.

When will the QCF come into force?

The QCF is already up and running, with many qualifications already on the Framework and the full implementation to be phased in by the end of 2010 as existing qualifications such as NVQs are reviewed and developed for the QCF.

What does this mean for employers?

From 1st August 2010 the Skills Funding Agency will focus funding on QCF qualifications and will start to turn off funding for some of the older qualifications including NVQs. This has already started and a significant number of qualifications are already on the QCF. It is anticipated that the remainder will be in place by December 2010.

This means that whilst employers can still put their staff through NVQ training, they will not be able to access government funding for NVQs if an equivalent new qualification is on the QCF.

With the new qualifications, different sectors are specifying different qualifications as the industry standard for entry level staff, some of which will involve more lengthy training than was previously necessary for the NVQ.

For a free briefing on the QCF, and what it means for your company, contact:

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For further information:

<http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/qualification-and-assessment-framework/89-articles/145-explaining-the-qualifications-and-credit-framework>

[http://www.cityandguilds.com/documents/Centre%20\(Generic\)/QCF-employers-guide.pdf](http://www.cityandguilds.com/documents/Centre%20(Generic)/QCF-employers-guide.pdf)

<http://www.cityandguilds.com/qcf.html>

<http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/index.aspx>