

**Last Updated: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

This statement has been produced to provide additional guidance for centres on the arrangements in place for NOCN's suite of construction qualifications. This statement should be read in conjunction with the general guidance NOCN has provided on our website here: [Alternative Arrangements for the Award of VTQs - NOCN](#)

### **Scope of Qualifications**

This statement applies to all of NOCN's qualifications within the Building and Construction sector.

### **Sector Engagement**

NOCN's adaptations to assessment have been put in place in line with Appendix C of the Consolidated Assessment Strategy, which will remain in place until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The detail of the special arrangements can be read here: [consolidated assessment strategy guidance.pdf \(citb.co.uk\)](#)

### **Adaptations to Delivery/Assessment**

For each unit where evidence is not sufficient to claim for learner achievement or, where a unit signals professional competency, centres should look to adapt assessment to ensure fairness to its learners and support learner progression.

NOCN has produced guidance which centres can refer to regarding how assessments can be adapted. Please refer to the NOCN Approach to Awarding in 2020-1 – Guidance for Centres document, available on the NOCN website [here](#), for further detail.

Adaptations specific to construction could include:

- Professional Discussion: using and recording professional discussion between a learner and an assessor focusing on, and enhancing, evidence already provided or demonstrated by the learner - including real work activities, practical tasks, a case study, project, portfolio or some other form of assessment.
- Practical assessment: Where possible, evidence may be assessed using remote assessment (video, photographic, portfolio, witness testimony), alongside work already demonstrated and assessed.
- Onsite Assessments: Any full time learners on a Centre based Training Qualification (known as a 'Diploma') who are using the Covid period to work on construction sites can take evidence from their occupation and use it as a portfolio of evidence for the practical assessments. This evidence needs to be scrutinised by the Centre and accepted as a suitable alternative to the Practical Assignments.
- Extrapolation of Practical Assessments: For full time learners on a Centre based Training Qualification (known as a 'Diploma') who have completed part of a Practical Assessment but have not fully completed the Assignment, it

may be applicable for the Centre to extrapolate the evidence to cover the full Assessment. e.g., if an individual is building a bay window, if more than 50% of it is completed to standard then it can be extrapolated that the individual is competent to complete the task without having to.

NOCN is aware that the list that we have issued is not a definitive list and centres may have devised other ways to adapted assessments. Due to the varying natures of NOCN qualifications, centres are encouraged to discuss adaptations outside of the ones listed above with their EQA to ensure that the collated evidence will meet the requirements of the criteria/outcomes set out in the qualification and that it is valid, reliable and authentic. This approach provides centres with the flexibility to ensure that all learners have an opportunity to complete any units or assessments that they may need to complete their qualification.

### **Remote Assessment and Invigilation**

NOCN is able to offer and promotes the use of remote assessment and invigilation. For learners who have outstanding knowledge tests, centres are able to allow learners to sit these tests and for them to be invigilated remotely.

For further information regarding remote invigilation, please refer to our website [here](#).

Where centres continue to conduct knowledge tests within Centre, there has been a temporary suspension to the rule that Tutors/Trainers cannot invigilate. For an initial period of 3 months, it will be permitted for tutors to invigilate their learners during assessments to allow for the maintenance of Covid 'bubbles'.

### **Qualification Categories**

To check which category these qualifications have been placed in, please refer to the latest categorisation spreadsheet, which is available for download on our dedicated [Qualification Categories page](#) of our website.

### **Use of Teacher Assessment Grades (TAGs)**

This only applies to NOCN's training diplomas (not NVQs), where these have been categorised as 'Category B1'. Where this is the case, NOCN guidance regarding TAGs must be followed. Full details are published on our website here: [Alternative Arrangements for the Award of VTQs - NOCN](#)

### **Quality Assurance**

In all cases where adapted assessments are used, centres must ensure that the required internal quality assurance activities take place to ensure validity in result claims. Adapted assessments will fall into NOCN's standard practices regarding external quality assurance.