END POINT ASSESSMENT CONSTRUCTION PLANT OPERATIVE

V1.2

End Point Assessment from NOCN

Role Profile

This occupation is found in Construction, Infrastructure and the Built Environment.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to check, prepare and operate a number of construction machines (known as plant) that is used onsite in the construction sector including on railways, demolition and utility works (water/gas/electricity supply). This apprenticeship involves the learning on four common types of construction plant and includes a 360-degree excavator, dumper/dump truck, forklift and ride-on roller. The ability to operate a core range of plant onsite will enable apprentices to work across a number of projects and provide the basis of upgrading to more specialist plant such as graders, dozers, demolition plant etc. They can progress to becoming a lead operator, supervisor, site or plant manager, or even set up their own contracting company.

Although each machine can carry out a number of different types of work, the core role of a 360 degree excavator is to 'dig' or 'shape' ground to, for example, form trenches for underground pipes, form earthwork embankments and will further load vehicles such as dumpers/dump trucks with earth that has been dug. The dumper will be loaded with earth from the excavator which is then transported across a site and tips the earth from the machine to form stockpiles or tip into an open trench. A ride in roller ‘rolls’ and compacts materials such as earth and tarmac for roads, paths etc. by being driven forward and backwards on a defined pattern, which compacts the material according to a specification. Forklifts in essence pick up a range of construction materials (usually on pallets) using the forks of the machine and transports them around a site, placing their load at various locations, sometimes to heights of 17 metres or more.

On this apprenticeship, the operative will further undertake a range of non-operational activities with each machine such as the checking, maintaining and cleaning of their machine. They will also learn to direct and guide other plant and vehicles; for example, directing the driver of a dump truck where to position themselves when being loaded by the excavator and will further learn how to signal and marshal other plant and vehicles undertaking site deliveries, carry out checks on the work they do and finally help load their plant onto or off a transporter when being delivered to another site.

In this occupation, the operative will work on construction and civil engineering sites and will be required to travel to and from the site either on a daily or weekly basis. The operative may work on infrastructure projects such as a new motorway or high-speed rail line, giving the operative the opportunity to be involved in high-profile national projects. They will work alongside other workers such a ground workers who directly help the plant operator by, for example, providing signals and attaching and detaching ancillary equipment. The plant operative however remains in principle ultimately responsible for the execution and completion of the tasks they are undertaking.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a wide range of different stakeholders, including the following: the client; contractors/customers; members of the public; supervisors; other trades/occupations; supporting occupations (banksman, mechanics etc.); managers; suppliers; safety professionals; manufacturers and administration staff. They will work exclusively in an outdoor environment in all seasons and weathers, and at variable times which may include overnight, weekend and anti-social hours work to complete projects which have fixed completion timescales such as roadworks, rail maintenance etc.

On-Programme: What apprentices need to learn

The apprentice will be assessed on the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for the Construction Plant Operative v1.2 apprenticeship standard.

Apprentices need to complete 6 hours of off-the-job training per week during the on-programme phase of their apprenticeship. Specific rules govern this and it must take place in the apprentice's contracted hours.

Refer to the **IfATE website** for further details on the apprenticeship standard and assessment plan.

End Point Assessment

End Point Assessment is the final stage of the apprenticeship. As defined in the assessment plan, the End Point Assessment for the Level 2 Construction Plant Operative consists of the following events.

Practical Assessment:

Apprentices must be observed by an independent assessor completing 7 practical demonstrations in which they will demonstrate the KSBs assigned to this assessment method.

Practical demonstrations must be carried out over a total assessment time of 5 hours and 30 minutes. The demonstrations may be split and delivered in any order, held over a maximum of 2 working days. The reason for this is to allow flexibility of the demonstrations in order to access the various machine types which may be situated at different working areas or locations.

As the make and model of the machines used in the assessment may be different to those used in the apprentice's workplace, apprentices must be provided with additional machine-control familiarisation time with the machines provided for the practical assessment. This familiarisation time depends on the machines types the apprentice has used within the workplace but will not exceed 30 minutes in duration and does not form part of the stated assessment time.

Professional Discussion:

This assessment will take the form of a professional discussion, which must be appropriately structured to draw out the best of the apprentice's competence and excellence. The professional discussion must last for 90 minutes and cover a minimum of 16 questions to ensure

the listed KSBs are effectively measured. The independent assessor has the discretion to increase the time of the professional discussion by up to 10% to allow the apprentice to complete their last answer.

Technical Theory Test:

The test can be:

Computer based;

Paper based

It will consist of 50 questions. These questions will consist of closed response questions for example multiple-choice questions and be based upon the KSBs mapped to this method.

Apprentices must have a maximum of 60 minutes to complete the test.

The test is closed book which means that apprentices cannot refer to reference books or materials.

Grading

All EPA methods must be passed for the EPA to be passed overall. A distinction is obtained by achieving a distinction in the professional discussion and technical theory test.

Results and Certification

On successful completion, NOCN will issue an EPA grade notification and apply to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to produce the final apprenticeship certificate.

Who are we?

charity whose core aims are to help learners reach their potential and organisations thrive. The group includes business units specialising in regulated UK and international qualifications, End Point Assessment, Access to Higher Education, assured short courses, SMART job cards, assessment services, consultancy and research.

We influence: We work closely with regulators and governments to influence policy decisions affecting the sector on behalf of the providers we serve.

We specialise: Our subject matter experts create learning content tailored to meet the future needs of the sectors we operate in.

We care: We aim to work in partnership with our customers, offering support and training to ensure an excellent learner experience.

We are Sustainable: In our pursuit to create long term ecological, social and economic value in all that we do to support the Net-Zero economy through individual actions and organisational strategy and initiatives.