

Last Updated: 31st August 2021

This statement has been produced to provide additional guidance for centres on the arrangements in place for NOCN's suite of first aid qualifications. This statement should be read in conjunction with the general guidance NOCN has provided on our website here: <https://www.nocn.org.uk/support/covid-19-guidance/approach-to-awarding-in-2021-2/>

This statement applies to assessments conducted from 1st September 2021 and replaces all previous sector statements published for this sector.

Scope of Qualifications

| Qual No. | Qualification Title |
|------------|--|
| 603/2447/8 | NOCN Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work |
| 603/6323/X | NOCN Level 3 Award in Emergency Paediatric First Aid |
| 603/2446/6 | NOCN Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work |
| 603/6360/5 | NOCN Level 3 Award in First Aid for Mental Health |
| 603/6322/8 | NOCN Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid |

Sector Engagement

The adaptations listed in this statement have been produced following consultation with the First Aid Quality Partnership and other Awarding Organisations in this sector.

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 Adaptation Guidance for Centres 2021-2 document, available on the NOCN website, for further detail.

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.

Practical demonstration and assessment of Rescue Breaths while CoVid transmission remains high

In response to the increased prevalence of asymptomatic COVID-19 cases and the increased transmission of the new variants, the FAQP and HSE supports the position of Resuscitation Council UK that practical demonstration of rescue breaths may be omitted from first aid training courses, as a precautionary measure while CoVid transmission rates remain high. Specifically;

- If a Training Provider, a Trainer, a Learner or an Employer is concerned about the removal of a face covering in order to demonstrate rescue breaths, the learner(s) may demonstrate chest compressions only for adult resuscitation. This will not affect the validity or duration of certification, however attendance on annual refresher training is strongly recommended.
- There is good evidence that rescue breaths form an essential part of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation particularly in children, infants and those who have drowned. The benefits of teaching rescue breaths to those who have a duty to provide first aid to these groups far outweighs the extremely small theoretical risk of transmission in the classroom whilst practising this skill. For this reason, rescue breaths should continue to be taught on paediatric first aid courses, lifeguard training, and with other groups such as emergency service workers.
- The above recommendation is temporary and will be reviewed on a regular basis. As the roll out of vaccines continues to grow at a pace and the current peak subsides we intend to reintroduce the mandatory practising, performance and assessment of rescue breaths in the classroom once the prevalence in society subsides. We will issue further notifications when reviews take place.

Further supporting information can be found [here](#).

Qualification Categories

All NOCN qualifications will be in Category A from 1st September 2021. This means that all training and assessment must be delivered to the required standard, either normally or through adaptations, to allow a claim for achievement.

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.