

Pearson Edexcel Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Construction Operations and Civil Engineering Services – Construction Operations

Qualification Number: 601/4293/5

What is the purpose of this qualification?

This qualification is designed to for people who are currently working in the construction industry, to show employers that they have the skills required to competently and safely work as Construction Operatives in Civil Engineering. This means workers who build, or lay foundations for essential civil engineering projects. It can include concreting, draining or paving for highways, excavating or general works. There are a number of specific pathways to choose from, according to the job carried out, but all include the safe and competent use of relevant machinery, plant or powered tools.

The qualification confers competence for these jobs, as the qualification is written to national occupational standards. It can also lead to achievement of relevant Construction Card Competence Schemes, as the NVQ is one of the ways to achieve the card. This is not a licence to practice, however because the card scheme is recognised by many employers, it can help learners to access work on construction sites and move employment.

What does this qualification cover?

This qualification is based on the latest National Occupational Standards for Construction Operations. Successful completion allows learners to prove their competence in carrying out building in civil engineering projects, to employers. After undertaking units in Health and Safety and productive working practices, learners will chose a unit in either Protecting the Work Area or Segregating Work Areas for Highways works. Learners then chose practical units in one or more of the following pathways, according to their current job role:

- Modular Pavement Construction
- Laying Kerbs and Channels
- General Building Operations
- Drainage Construction
- Structural Concreting
- Non-Structural Concreting
- General Construction
- Excavation and Reinstatement

Who can take this qualification?

This qualification is for all learners aged 16 and above who are capable of reaching the required standards and have opportunity to demonstrate practical skills in a realistic construction working environment. Learners do not need any prior qualifications, knowledge or experience before starting the qualification. They are likely, however to be working in Construction Operations or be able to take on such responsibilities as progression or secondment from their current construction role.

What can this qualification lead to?

Learners may use the qualification to gain employment as Construction Operatives in Civil Engineering projects. It can also be used towards achievement of Construction Card Competence Schemes to show on-site competence to prospective employers. As it provides a foundation in Civil Engineering at craft level, learners may use this towards progression to technician level and to therefore achieve professional membership (EngTech) after achievement of a level 3

qualification. This would only be possible with promotion, or increased responsibility in their job role, e.g. supervising some areas of the team's work, monitoring the projects, or starting to provide technical support (e.g. project monitoring, surveying, estimating, helping to tender for work etc)

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by the Chartered Institute of Building and the institution of Civil Engineers as offering progression routes to professional entry. It is based on occupational standards and QCF competence units written by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) in consultation with their employer working group, and as such, the NVQ is supported by these organisations.

How is this qualification assessed?

A portfolio of evidence gathered from a range of sources including workplace activities and realistic work environments, professional discussions, questioning and observation of performance