

BTEC Professional Qualifications-Level 4 Diploma for Hearing Care Assistant (L4)- 601/1840/4

Addendum Notice reference change in assessment guidance for competence criteria. *There are no changes in assessment guidance for assessing knowledge criteria for this qualification*

The new guidance will be applicable for any learners assessed after 1st January 2022.

1. Current Assessment guidance.

Page 5- Centres are encouraged to emphasise the practical application of the assessment criteria, providing a realistic scenario for learners to adopt, and making maximum use of practical activities.

Page 7- The use of assessment evidence drawn from learners' work environments should be encouraged.

Page 67- Annex B Skills for Health Assessment Principles:

2.2 Assessment decisions for competence-based units must be made by an occupationally competent assessor primarily using evidence generated in the workplace during the learner's normal work activity. Any knowledge evidence integral to these learning outcomes may be generated outside of the work environment.

2.4 Competence-based units must include direct observation in the workplace as the primary source of evidence.

2.5 Simulation may only be utilised as an assessment method for learning outcomes that start with 'be able to' where this is specified in the assessment requirements of the unit. The use of simulation should be restricted to obtaining evidence where the evidence cannot be generated through normal work activity.

2.6 Expert witnesses can be used for direct observation where they have occupational expertise for specialist areas, or the observation is of a particularly sensitive nature. The use of expert witnesses should be determined and agreed by the assessor.

2. Amended Assessment guidance

The Skills for Health Assessment Principles have been updated since 2017 and the qualifications must be assessed in line with [these new principles](#) for qualifications that assess Occupational Competence.

2.4 Competence based units must include direct observation in the workplace as the primary source of evidence.

2.5 Simulation may only be utilised as an assessment method for learning outcomes that start with 'be able to' where this is specified in the assessment requirements of the unit. The use of simulation should be restricted to obtaining evidence where the evidence cannot be generated through normal work activity. Where this may be the case the use of simulation in the unit assessment strategy will be agreed with Skills for Health.

2.6 Expert witnesses can be used for direct observation where they have occupational expertise for specialist areas, or the observation is of a particularly sensitive nature. The use of expert witnesses should be determined and agreed by the assessor.

In line with these principles, we will be amending our assessment guidance when the qualification is next reviewed but in the interim, we would like to inform centres that they must use triangulation of evidence for all competence elements where direct observations are not always possible.

Triangulation of evidence must include holistic expert witness testimonies and direct observations to confirm competence over a period of time. Direct observation can be either done in the workplace or simulated to meet the competence requirements. The simulated observations must also be assessed by a competent assessor.

The specification for the qualification will be updated with this guidance when we review the qualification.