

The move from QCF to RQF (Regulated Quality Framework)

September 2015

FAQS

What are the changes to QCF?

The QCF unit bank and the functionality in RITS, which also facilitates the QCF unit sharing, will close on 30 September 2015. All Awarding Organisations, including Pearson, will need to remove QCF from their qualification titles by the end of 2017, but the use of NVQ where a qualification is based on agreed occupational standards, talks occupational competence can continue.

What is the name of the new qualifications framework?

The new framework will be called the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and will be introduced on 1 October 2015.

What will be the new requirements for the RQF?

The new requirements include all qualifications will have to have a size, expressed in terms of Total Qualification Time (TQT) and where appropriate GLH. For existing qualifications a measure of size will be in place no later than 31 December 2017.

Will the levels change?

The RQF will be supported by level descriptors from Entry 1 to Level 8 and every qualification must have a level in accordance with the level descriptors. There is no intention that this should change the levels of any existing qualifications.

Will existing qualifications change from 1 October 2015?

You may start seeing changes to existing qualifications as they will need to have QCF removed from the qualification title, register and marketing literature but this doesn't need to be completed until 31 December 2017. Student certificates can continue to have QCF in the title of the qualification where they are awarded beyond 31 December 2017 if the term was in use in the qualification (and appearing in the register) at the time they started it.

What happens if Awarding Organisations use credit?

When an Awarding Organisation decides to use credit, credit is calculated at TQT divided by 10. Any Awarding Organisation intending recognition of prior learning should publish a policy to be followed.

Will all qualifications be changed at the same time?

No, the new rules are being published in September but some of them will not have immediate effect for existing qualifications but will come into force when Ofqual give notice to Awarding Organisations.

When will the new rules be published?

The new rules will be published in September 2015. Ofqual will be circulating information materials explaining the changes.

What will I need to do?

There should be little immediate impact for schools, colleges and other providers as a result of these changes. At the moment just be aware of the changes and we will keep you up to date with any changes to our qualifications via our Insight newsletter, sign up to ensure you get these updates.