

Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Using and Promoting Multi-channel Retailing in Store (QCF)

Specification

Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualification

First registration February 2015

Edexcel, BTEC and LCCI qualifications

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Purpose of this specification

This specification sets out:

- the objectives of the qualification
- any other qualification that a learner must have completed before taking the qualification
- any prior knowledge, skills or understanding which the learner is required to have before taking the qualification
- the combination of units that a learner must have completed before the qualification will be awarded and any pathways
- any other requirements that a learner must have satisfied before they will be assessed or before the qualification will be awarded
- the knowledge, skills and understanding that will be assessed as part of the qualification
- the method of any assessment and any associated requirements relating to it
- the criteria against which a learner's level of attainment will be measured (such as assessment criteria)
- assessment requirements and/or evidence requirements required as specified by the relevant Sector Skills Council/Standards Setting Body
- assessment requirements/strategy as published by the relevant Sector Skills Council/Standards Setting Body
- the Apprenticeship Framework in which the qualification is included, where appropriate.

1 Introducing Pearson BTEC Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualifications

What are Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualifications?

A Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualification is a work-based qualification that combines competence and technical knowledge to give learners the practical competencies, technical skills and sector-related knowledge they need to carry out a job effectively.

Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualifications are based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the appropriate sector. NOS define what employees, or potential employees, must be able to do and know, and how well they should carry out work tasks and work roles. At Level 2 and above, these qualifications are recognised as the competence component of Apprenticeship Frameworks. Qualifications at Level 1 can be used in Traineeships, which are stepping-stones to Apprenticeship qualifications. Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualifications can also be delivered as stand-alone for those who wish to take a work-based qualification.

Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualifications are outcome based with no fixed learning programme – allowing flexible delivery that meets the individual learner’s needs. They are suitable for those in employment and for those studying at college who have a part-time job or access to a substantial work placement in order to demonstrate the competencies that are required for work.

Most learners will work towards their qualification in the workplace or in settings that replicate the working environment as specified in the assessment requirements/strategy for the sector. Colleges, training centres and employers can offer these qualifications provided they have access to appropriate physical and human resources.

There are three sizes of Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualification in the QCF:

- Award (1 to 12 credits)
- Certificate (13 to 36 credits)
- Diploma (37 credits and above).

Every unit and qualification in the QCF has a credit value.

The credit value of a unit specifies the number of credits awarded to a learner who has met the learning outcomes of the unit.

The credit value of a unit is based on:

- one credit for those learning outcomes achievable in 10 hours of learning
- learning time – defined as the time taken by learners at the level of the unit, on average, to complete the learning outcomes of the unit to the standard determined by the assessment criteria.

2 Qualification summary and key information

Qualification title	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Using and Promoting Multi-channel Retailing in Store (QCF)
QCF Qualification Number (QN)	XXX/XXX/X
Qualification framework	Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)
Regulation start date	01/02/2015
Operational start date	DD/MM/YYYY
Approved age ranges	18+
Credit value	11
Assessment	Portfolio of Evidence (internal assessment)
Guided learning hours	82
Grading information	The qualification and units are graded pass/fail.
Entry requirements	No prior knowledge, understanding, skills or qualifications are required before learners register for this qualification. However, centres must follow the Pearson Access and Recruitment Policy (see <i>Section 7, Access and Recruitment</i>).
Funding	<p>Details on funding approval will be available in the future on the Learning Aims Reference Service (LARS) database, which replaces the Learning Aim Reference Application (LARA). In the interim, the LARS Lite database is available to check funding approval.</p> <p>Alternatively, the Skills Funding Agency's simplified funding catalogues can be used to check funding approval.</p> <p>Further information and guidance is available on the website www.gov.uk</p>

Centres will need to use the QCF Qualification Number (QN) when they seek public funding for their learners. As well as a QN, each unit within a qualification has a QCF unit reference number (URN).

The qualification title, unit titles and QN will appear on each learner's final certificate. Centres should tell learners this when recruiting them and registering them with Pearson. There is more information about certification in our *UK Information Manual*, available on our website, qualifications.pearson.com

3 Qualification rationale

Qualification objectives

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Using and Promoting Multi-channel Retailing in Store (QCF) is for learners who work, or want to work, in a multi-channel retail environment, working with customers using new technology to make their purchases.

Multi-channel retail is a growing area that uses smart technology to change the way in which people shop.

This qualification gives learners the opportunity to:

- develop the underpinning knowledge and skills related to multi-channel retail
- be competent in the secure use of web-based retail facilities in-store and online
- promote the benefits of multi-channel retailing to support the customer retailing experience
- achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification
- develop personal growth and engagement in learning.

Progression opportunities

Learners who achieve the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Using and Promoting Multi-channel Retailing in Store (QCF) can progress to the level 3 Apprenticeship diploma in Multi-channel Retail (QCF). The Apprenticeship and the Diploma will help learners who want to gain skills and knowledge in retail and the use of new technology in a multi-channel retail setting.

Learners who achieve the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Using and Promoting Multi-channel Retailing in Store (QCF) can also progress to new roles in the growing area of multi-channel and digital retail technology, for example a sales assistant in multi-channel retail.

Industry support and recognition

This qualification is supported by People 1st, the Sector Skills Council for Retail.

Relationship with National Occupational Standards

This qualification is based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) in Multi-channel Retailing, which were set and designed by People 1st.

4 Qualification structure

Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Using and Promoting Multi-channel Retailing in Store (QCF)

The learner will need to meet the requirements outlined in the table below before the qualification can be awarded.

Minimum number of credits that must be achieved	11
All five units are mandatory	

Unit	Unit reference number	Units	Level	Credit	Guided learning hours
1	K/505/9384	Understanding the Use of In-store Web-based Facilities in Promoting Retail Sales	2	2	15
2	H/505/9383	Understanding How to Maintain the Confidentiality and Security of Customer Data Held Online	2	2	12
3	D/505/9379	Using Web-based Facilities In-store to Achieve Retail Sales	2	2	20
4	R/505/9380	Advising and Supporting Customers on the Use of In-store Web-based Retail Facilities	2	3	24
5	D/505/9382	Maintaining Data Confidentiality and Security when Using Web-based Retail Facilities In-store	2	2	11

5 Programme delivery

Centres are free to offer these qualifications using any mode of delivery (for example full-time, part-time, evening only, distance learning) that meets learners' needs. Learners must be in employment or working with a training provider on a programme so that they can develop and demonstrate the occupational competence required.

Whichever mode of delivery is used, centres must make sure that learners have access to specified resources and to the sector specialists delivering and assessing the units. Centres must adhere to the Pearson policies that apply to the different modes of delivery. Our policy on *Collaborative Arrangements for the Delivery of Vocational Qualifications* can be found on our website qualifications.pearson.com

There are various approaches to delivering a successful competence-based qualification. The section below outlines elements of good practice that centres can adopt in relation to learner recruitment, preparation and support, training and assessment delivery, and employer engagement.

Elements of good practice

Learner recruitment, preparation and support

Good practice in relation to learner recruitment, preparation and support includes:

- providing initial advice and guidance, including work tasters, to potential learners to give them an insight into the relevant industry and the learning programme
- using a range of appropriate and rigorous selection methods to ensure that learners are matched to the programme best suited to their needs
- carrying out a thorough induction for learners to ensure they completely understand the programme and what is expected of them. The induction should include, for example, the requirements of the programme, an initial assessment of current competency levels, assessment of individual learning styles, identification of training needs, an individual learning plan, details of training delivery and the assessment process. It is good practice to involve employers in the induction process. This helps employers to understand what will be taking place during the programme and enables them to start building a relationship with the centre to support the effective delivery of the programme
- maintaining regular contact with the learner to keep them engaged and motivated, and ensuring that there are open lines of communication between the learner, the assessor, the employer and teaching staff.

Training and assessment delivery

Good practice in relation to training and assessment delivery includes:

- offering flexible delivery and assessment to meet the needs of the employer and learner, through the use of a range of approaches, for example virtual learning environments (VLEs), online lectures, video, printable online resources, virtual visits, webcams for distance training, e-portfolios
- balancing on-the-job and off-the-job training to meet the knowledge and competence requirements of the programme
 - off-the-job: the nature of Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualifications means that the development of technical and sector-related knowledge is integral to learners achieving the qualifications. As a result, learners need to have sufficient time away from the work environment to focus on developing their technical and industry knowledge, and transferable and practical skills related to their job role. Tutors need to use a range of teaching and learning methods to deliver this training effectively. Examples of methods are: demonstration, observation and imitation, practising ('trial and error'), feedback on performance from experts and peers, reflective practice, real-world problem solving, enquiry-based learning, peer learning, virtual learning environments, questioning and discussions
 - on-the-job: planning opportunities with the employer for the development and practising of skills on-the-job. The on-the-job element of the programme not only offers opportunities for assessment but also plays an important role in developing the learner's routine expertise, resourcefulness, craftspersonship and business-like attitude. It is important that there is intentional structuring of practice and guidance to supplement the learning and development provided through engagement in everyday work activities. Teaching and learning methods, such as coaching, mentoring, shadowing, reflective practice, collaboration and consultation, could be used in this structured on-the-job learning
- developing an holistic approach to assessment by matching evidence to different assessment criteria, learning outcomes and units as appropriate, thereby reducing the assessment burden on learners and assessors. It is good practice to draw up an assessment plan that aligns the units with the learning process and the acquisition of knowledge and skills, and which indicates how and when the units will be assessed
- discussing and agreeing with the learner and employer suitable times, dates and work areas where assessment will take place. Learners and employers should be given regular and relevant feedback on performance and progress.

Employer engagement

Good practice in relation to employer engagement includes:

- communicating with employers at the start of the programme to understand their business context and requirements so that the programme can be tailored to meet their needs
- working with employers to ensure that learners are allocated a mentor in the workplace to assist them in the day-to-day working environment and to act as a contact for the assessor/tutor
- helping employers to better understand their role in the delivery of the programme. It is important employers understand that learners must be given sufficient and relevant work in order to provide a culture of learning and to ensure that learners are given every opportunity to participate in aspects of continuous professional development (CPD).

Delivery guidance for the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Using and Promoting Multi-channel Retailing In-store (QCF)

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Using and Promoting Multi-channel Retailing in Store (QCF) has five mandatory units.

The first two units are knowledge-based units, suitable for off-the-job delivery:

- Unit 1: Understanding the Use of In-store Web-based Facilities in Promoting Retail Sales
- Unit 2: Understanding How to Maintain the Confidentiality and Security of Customer Data Held Online.

These knowledge-based units would be suitable for a tutorial-style delivery where the underlying principles of using and promoting multi-channel retailing could be explored, examined and discussed. This will give learners a sound knowledge base for the development of practical skills that can be evidenced in the workplace. Learning outcome 1 in Unit 4 is also suitable to deliver in this way.

To make delivery of the knowledge-based units more interesting, guest speakers could be bought in from suitable retail outlets to share their knowledge and experience of using and promoting multi-channel retailing in store. Other methods of delivery could include presentations, case studies, group and individual learner research, video clips from real work situations, online learning resources and group discussions.

For example in Unit 1, learning outcome 1, the learner could be tasked with researching their own organisation's in-store, web-based retail selling facilities and then comparing them with competitors or other learners' organisations' websites. Delivery of Unit 4, learning outcome 1 could be combined with delivery of Unit 2. Learners would need to take into account the balance between instruction and the customer's own abilities and confidence when using in-store, web-based retail facilities.

For Unit 2, learners could, initially, research their own organisations' policies and procedures relating to the maintenance of online data confidentiality and security. A tutor-led discussion would give learners the opportunity to present and share their research, and draw on their experiences of applying these policies and procedures in the workplace. A guest speaker from a third-party multi-channel retail organisation would add additional and diverse experience that would help to develop learner knowledge and understanding for this unit further.

Many organisations run induction training and it is a valuable way of learners gaining knowledge for the learning outcomes in Units 1, 2 and 4. Many organisations will have role-specific induction programmes for new employees and a programme at this level could cover some of the assessment criteria in these learning outcomes. Where these programmes exist, they should be mapped to internal documents such as reviews or personal development plans.

On-the-job delivery for the competence-based learning outcomes in Units 3, 4 and 5 can be carried out in a number of different ways, depending on what is best for the learner.. Coaching and mentoring could be suitable delivery methods for *Unit 3: Using Web-based Facilities In-store to Achieve Retail Sales* and *Unit 4: Advising and Supporting Customers on the Use of In-store Web-based Retail Facilities*. Shadowing a colleague who has the relevant knowledge and expertise could also be an invaluable learning experience for many learners. These colleagues could provide witness testimonies if the learner then takes over from them and performs the work role themselves.

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6 Centre resource requirements

As part of the approval process, centres must make sure that the resource requirements below are in place before offering the qualification.

- Centres must have the appropriate physical resources to support delivery and assessment of the qualification. For example a workplace in line with industry standards, equipment, IT, learning materials, teaching rooms.
- Centres must meet any specific human and physical resource requirements outlined in the assessment strategy in *Annexe A*. Staff assessing learners must meet the occupational competence requirements within the overarching assessment strategy for the sector. There must be systems in place to ensure continuing professional development for staff delivering the qualification.
- Centres must have appropriate health and safety policies, procedures and practices in place for the delivery and assessment of the qualification.
- Centres must deliver the qualification in accordance with current equality legislation. For further details on Pearson's commitment to the Equality Act 2010, please see *Section 7, Access and recruitment*. For full details on the Equality Act 2010, please go to www.legislation.gov.uk

7 Access and recruitment

Our policy on access to our qualifications is that:

- they should be available to everyone who is capable of reaching the required standards
- they should be free from barriers that restrict access and progression
- there should be equal opportunities for all wishing to access the qualifications.

Centres must ensure that their learner recruitment process is conducted with integrity. This includes ensuring that applicants have appropriate information and advice about the qualification to ensure that it will meet their needs.

Centres should review applicants' prior qualifications and/or experience, considering whether this profile shows that they have the potential to achieve the qualification.

Prior knowledge, skills and understanding

No prior knowledge, skills, understanding or qualifications are required before learners register for this qualification.

Access to qualifications for learners with disabilities or specific needs

Equality and fairness are central to our work. Pearson's *Equality Policy* requires all learners to have equal opportunity to access our qualifications and assessments and that our qualifications are awarded in a way that is fair to every learner.

We are committed to making sure that:

- learners with a protected characteristic (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) are not, when they are undertaking one of our qualifications, disadvantaged in comparison to learners who do not share that characteristic
- all learners achieve the recognition they deserve from undertaking a qualification and that this achievement can be compared fairly to the achievement of their peers.

For learners with disabilities and specific needs, the assessment of their potential to achieve the qualification must identify, where appropriate, the support that will be made available to them during delivery and assessment of the qualification. Please see the information regarding reasonable adjustments and special consideration in *Section 8, Assessment*.

8 Assessment

This qualification is assessed through internal assessment. To achieve a pass for the full qualification, learners must achieve all the required units as stated in the qualification structure.

Language of assessment

Assessment of internally assessed units may be in English, Welsh or Irish. If assessment is to be carried out in either Welsh or Irish then centres must inform Pearson at the point of learner registration.

A learner taking the qualification may be assessed in British or Irish Sign Language where it is permitted for the purpose of reasonable adjustment.

Further information on the use of language in qualifications is available in our policy document *Use of Languages in Qualifications Policy*, available on our website, qualifications.pearson.com

Further information on access arrangements can be found in the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) document *Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration for General and Vocational qualifications*. Both documents are available on our website, qualifications.pearson.com

Internal assessment

All units in this qualification are internally assessed using an internally and externally quality assured Portfolio of Evidence made up of evidence gathered during the course of the learner's work.

Each unit has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. To pass each unit the learner must:

- achieve **all** the specified learning outcomes
- satisfy **all** the assessment criteria by providing sufficient and valid evidence for each criterion
- prove that the evidence is their own.

The learner must have an assessment record that identifies the assessment criteria that have been met. The assessment record should be cross-referenced to the evidence provided. The assessment record should include details of the type of evidence and the date of assessment. Suitable centre documentation should be used to form an assessment record.

It is important that the evidence provided to meet the assessment criteria for the unit and learning outcomes is:

Valid	relevant to the standards for which competence is claimed
Authentic	produced by the learner
Current	sufficiently recent to create confidence that the same skill, understanding or knowledge persist at the time of the claim
Reliable	indicates that the learner can consistently perform at this level
Sufficient	fully meets the requirements of the standards.

Learners can provide evidence of occupational competence from:

- **current practice** – where evidence is generated from a current job role
- a **programme of development** – where evidence comes from assessment opportunities built into a learning programme. The evidence provided must meet the requirements of the Sector Skills Council's assessment requirements/strategy

the **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** – where a learner can demonstrate that they can meet a unit's assessment criteria through knowledge, understanding or skills they already possess without undertaking a course of development. They must submit sufficient, reliable, authentic and valid evidence for assessment. Evidence submitted that is based on RPL should give the centre confidence that the same level of skill, understanding and knowledge exists at the time of claim as existed at the time the evidence was produced. RPL is acceptable for accrediting a unit, several units, or a whole qualification. Further guidance is available in our policy document *Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and Process*, available on our website, qualifications.pearson.com

- a combination of these.

Assessment strategy

The assessment strategy for this qualification is included in *Annexe A*. It sets out the overarching assessment principles and the framework for assessing the units to ensure that the qualification remain valid and reliable.

Types of evidence

To achieve a unit, the learner must gather evidence that shows that they have met the required standard specified in the assessment criteria, Pearson's quality assurance arrangements (please see *Section 10, Quality assurance of centres*) and the requirements of the assessment requirements/strategy given in *Annexe A*.

In line with the assessment requirements/strategy, evidence for internally assessed units can take a variety of forms as indicated below:

- direct observation of the learner's performance by their assessor (O)
- outcomes from oral or written questioning (Q&A)
- products of the learner's work (P)
- personal statements and/or reflective accounts (RA)
- professional discussion (PD)
- assignment, project/case studies (A)
- authentic statements/witness testimony (WT)
- expert witness testimony (EWT)
- evidence of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Learners can use the abbreviations in their portfolios for cross-referencing purposes.

Learners can also use one piece of evidence to prove their knowledge, skills and understanding across different assessment criteria and/or across different units. It is not necessary for learners to have each assessment criterion assessed separately. They should be encouraged to reference evidence to the relevant assessment criteria. However, the evidence provided for each unit must be clearly reference the unit being assessed. Evidence must be available to the assessor, the internal verifier and the Pearson standards verifier.

Any specific evidence requirements for a unit are given in the *Assessment* section of the unit.

Further guidance on the requirements for centre quality assurance and internal verification processes is available on our website qualifications.pearson.com. Please see *Section 12, Further information and useful publications* for details.

Assessment of knowledge

With Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualifications, the assessment of technical and sector-related knowledge is integral to achieving the qualifications. Learners must provide evidence of their achievement of the knowledge-based learning outcomes and associated assessment criteria – the achievement of these cannot be inferred from performance. Centres must ensure that the assessment methods used are appropriate for the specific learning outcomes and assessment criteria and are in line with the assessment strategy in *Annexe A*.

Assessment tasks and activities must enable the learners to produce valid, sufficient, authentic and appropriate evidence that relates directly to the specified knowledge-based learning outcomes and assessment criteria within the context of the *Unit amplification*. Centres need to look closely at the verb used for each assessment criterion when devising assessments to ensure that learners can provide evidence with sufficient breadth and depth to meet the requirements.

To avoid over-assessment, centres are encouraged to link delivery and assessment across the units.

The *Unit assessment guidance* in the individual units will be useful in supporting centres in the assessment process.

Appeals

Centres must have a policy for dealing with appeals from learners. Appeals may relate to incorrect assessment decisions or unfairly conducted assessment. The first step in such a policy is a consideration of the evidence by a Lead Internal Verifier or other member of the programme team. The assessment plan should allow time for potential appeals after learners have been given assessment decisions.

Centres must document all learner appeals and their resolutions. Further information on the appeals process can be found in *Enquiries and Appeals about Pearson Vocational Qualifications Policy*, available on our website, qualifications.pearson.com

Dealing with malpractice

Centres must have a policy for dealing with malpractice by learners. This policy must follow the *Pearson Assessment Malpractice Policy*, available on our website, qualifications.pearson.com. Centres must report malpractice to Pearson, particularly if any units have been subject to quality assurance or certification.

Reasonable adjustments to assessment

Centres are able to make adjustments to assessments to take account of the needs of individual learners in line with the guidance given in *Pearson Supplementary Guidance for Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration in Vocational Internally Assessed Units*. In most instances, adjustments can be achieved by following the guidance; for example allowing the use of assistive technology or adjusting the format of the evidence. We can advise you if you are uncertain as to whether an adjustment is fair and reasonable. Any reasonable adjustment must reflect the normal learning or working practice of a learner in a centre or working within the occupational area.

Further information on access arrangements can be found in the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) document *Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration for General and Vocational qualifications*.

Both documents are on our website, qualifications.pearson.com

Special consideration

Centres must operate special consideration in line with the guidance given in the document *Pearson Supplementary Guidance for Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration in Vocational Internally Assessed Units*. Special consideration may not be applicable in instances where:

- assessment requires the demonstration of practical competence
- criteria have to be met fully
- units/qualifications confer licence to practice.

Centres cannot apply their own special consideration; applications for special consideration must be made to Pearson and can be made only on a case-by-case basis. A separate application must be made for each learner and certification claims must not be made until the outcome of the application has been received.

Further information on special consideration can be found in the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) document *Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration for General and Vocational qualifications*.

Both documents are available on our website, qualifications.pearson.com

Credit transfer

Credit transfer describes the process of using a credit or credits awarded in the context of a different qualification or awarded by a different awarding organisation towards the achievement requirements of another qualification. All awarding organisations recognise the credits awarded by all other awarding organisations that operate within the QCF.

If learners achieve credits with other awarding organisations, they do not need to retake any assessment for the same units. The centre must keep evidence of unit achievement. Further information on credit transfer can be found in the document *Credit Accumulation and Transfer Policy (England)*, available on our website, qualifications.pearson.com

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9 Centre recognition and approval

Centre recognition

Centres that have not previously offered BTEC vocational qualifications need to apply for and be granted centre recognition and approval as part of the process for approval to offer individual qualifications.

Existing centres will be given 'automatic approval' for a new qualification if they are already approved for a qualification that is being replaced by a new qualification and the conditions for automatic approval are met.

Guidance on seeking approval to deliver BTEC vocational qualifications is available at www.pearsonwbl.edexcel.com/qualifications-approval.

Approvals agreement

All centres are required to enter into an approval agreement, which is a formal commitment by the head or principal of a centre, to meet all the requirements of the specification and any associated codes, conditions or regulations. Pearson will act to protect the integrity of the awarding of qualifications. If centres do not comply with the agreement, this could result in the suspension of certification or withdrawal of approval.

10 Quality assurance of centres

Quality assurance is at the heart of vocational qualifications. Centres are required to declare their commitment to ensuring quality and to giving learners appropriate opportunities that lead to valid and accurate assessment outcomes.

Centres must follow quality assurance requirements for standardisation of assessors and internal verifiers and the monitoring and recording of assessment processes. Pearson uses external quality assurance procedures to check that all centres are working to national standards. It gives us the opportunity to identify and provide support to safeguard certification and quality standards. It also allows us to recognise and support good practice.

Centres offering Combined (Competence and Knowledge) qualifications will usually receive two standards verification visits per year (a total of two days per year). The exact frequency and duration of standards verifier visits will reflect the centre's performance, taking account of the:

- number of assessment sites
- number and throughput of learners
- number and turnover of assessors
- number and turnover of internal verifiers.

For centres offering a full Pearson BTEC Apprenticeship (i.e. all elements of the Apprenticeship are delivered with Pearson through registration of learners on a BTEC Apprenticeship Framework) a single standards verifier will normally be allocated to verify all elements of the BTEC Apprenticeship programme. Centres should make use of our one-click learner registration to access this facility. If a centre is also offering stand-alone NVQs/Competence-based qualifications in the same sector as a full BTEC Apprenticeship, the same standards verifier should be allocated. If a centre is also offering stand-alone BTEC qualifications in the same sector as a full BTEC Apprenticeship, a different quality assurance model applies.

In order for certification to be released, confirmation is required that the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for assessment and verification, and for the specific occupational sector are being met consistently.

For further details, please go to the *NVQ Quality Assurance Centre Handbook*, the *BTEC Apprenticeships Quality Assurance Handbook* and the *Pearson Edexcel NVQs, SVQs and Competence-based Qualifications – Delivery Requirements and Quality Assurance Guidance* on our website, qualifications.pearson.com

11 Unit format

Each unit has the following sections.

Unit title

The unit title is on the QCF and this form of words will appear on the learner's Notification of Performance (NOP).

Unit reference number

Each unit is assigned a unit reference number that appears with the unit title on the Register of Regulated Qualifications.

QCF level

All units and qualifications within the QCF have a level assigned to them. There are nine levels of achievement, from Entry to Level 8. The QCF Level Descriptors inform the allocation of the level.

Credit value

All units have a credit value. When a learner achieves a unit, they gain the specified number of credits. The minimum credit value is 1 and credits can be awarded in whole numbers only.

Guided learning hours

Guided learning hours are the times when a tutor, trainer or facilitator is present to give specific guidance towards the learning aim for a programme. This definition includes workplace guidance to support the development of practical job-related skills, tutorials and supervised study in, for example, open learning centres and learning workshops. It also includes the time spent by staff assessing learners' achievements, for example in the assessment of competence for competency-based qualifications.

Unit summary

This summarises the purpose of the unit and the learning the unit offers.

Learning outcomes

The learning outcomes set out what a learner will know, understand or be able to do as the result of a process of learning.

Assessment criteria

Descriptions of the requirements a learner is expected to meet to demonstrate that a learning outcome has been achieved.

Unit amplification

This section clarifies what a learner needs to know to achieve a learning outcome. Amplification is given only for those assessment criteria associated with knowledge-based learning outcomes – assessment criteria for competence-based learning outcomes are not amplified.

Where an assessment criterion is context specific, amplification is not given. Where this is the case, it is indicated with the statement: *'The knowledge to meet this AC depends on particular organisational requirements and context. Learners need to apply the knowledge specific to their organisation to meet this AC'*.

Information for tutors

This section gives tutors information on delivery and assessment. It contains the following subsections.

- *Suggested resources* – lists resource materials that can be used to support delivery of the unit, for example books, journals and websites.
- *Assessment* – gives information about the evidence that learners must produce, together with any additional guidance if appropriate. This section should be read in conjunction with the assessment criteria.

Unit 1: Understanding the Use of In-store Web-based Facilities in Promoting Retail Sales

Unit reference number: K/505/9384

QCF level: 2

Credit value: 2

Guided learning hours: 15

Unit summary

In this unit, learners will develop an understanding of the basic principles of how to use in-store web-based facilities to promote retail sales. This will involve knowing how to use a range of in-store web-based facilities within their organisation, the principal features and the associated benefits of these facilities in promoting an effective shopping experience for customers. Learners will develop an understanding of the impact of multi-channel retail marketing on in-store sales, such as customers carrying out pre-visit research of a store, or a competitor comparison. Learners will also look at the different ways in which customers use the facilities, such as click and collect.

To work effectively in this area, learners need to know about consumer protection legislation and a good understanding of the regulations relating to distance and web-based retail selling, including product descriptions, key seller information, rights to cancel, delivery rights, and what to do in cases of faulty and substitute goods. They also need to know that in offering a 'seamless' service between online and offline retailing, they should ensure customers are not disadvantaged in their particular route to sale.

Learners need to learn to deal with the differing attitudes towards and levels of understanding that customers have of using web-based technologies when shopping online. This will help learners to understand the need to create a positive impact on the customer experience and as part of the 'seamless' service that is now expected.

Unit assessment requirements/evidence requirements

There are no specific requirements for this unit.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

To pass this unit, the learner needs to demonstrate that they can meet all the learning outcomes for the unit. The assessment criteria outline the requirements the learner is expected to meet to achieve the unit.

Learning outcomes		Assessment criteria	
1	Understand the in-store web-based retail selling facilities and the use of these facilities within their area of operations	1.1	Explain how to operate the web-based facilities available in-store within their own organisation
		1.2	Describe the features of the web-based facilities and the associated benefits, both for their customers and for their own organisation
		1.3	Describe the impact of multi-channel retailing upon in-store selling within their own organisation, including its impact for their customers' ability to research and order products from the organisation and its competitors
		1.4	Describe how distance selling legislation and consumer rights affect their area of retail operations, including web-based retail selling
2	Understand the impact of web-based retail facilities upon the customer shopping experience	2.1	Describe the importance of providing a 'seamless' service to customers, irrespective of the customer journey undertaken
		2.2	Explain what providing a 'seamless' service means for them in their dealings with customers in-store
		2.3	Explain the opportunities to build customer relations when customers are in stores to collect and to return products purchased online
		2.4	Describe how customers' attitudes and understanding of web-based technology can affect their customers' use of in-store web-based facilities

Unit amplification

AC1.1: Explain how to operate in-store web-based retail facilities available within their own organisation

- *Channel: e.g. internet search, paid search, direct website entry, social media, referrals, click to chat, email, mobile apps*
- *Search criteria*
- *Services available: e.g. collection and delivery; special orders, e.g. wedding lists'*
- *Special offers and promotion codes*
- *Research before 'bricks and mortar' visit, research competitor sites*
- *Different technologies: e.g. in-store kiosks, tablets, laptops, PCs, smartphones, mobile apps*

AC1.2: Describe the features of the in-store web-based retail facilities and the associated benefits, for customers and their organisation

- *Features of web based retailing: search facilities e.g. by product, keyword, category; upload speed; responsiveness; refer a friend; social network links; facebook 'Like' button; employment with us; shopping cart; check out; online payment options; security; freight/postage calculator*
- *Benefits: improved customer perception; customer loyalty; responsive to customer needs; variety of channels; convenience; brand consistency; better information; ease of access: ease of use; 24-hour business; order and collect; delivery; responsiveness: view on any device, e.g. mobile phone, tablet, laptop, PC; customer reviews and feedback*

AC1.3: Describe the impact of multi-channel retailing upon in-store selling within their own organisation, including its impact for their customers' ability to research and order products from the organisation and its competitors

- *Impacts of multi-channel retailing on business: increased sales; repeat sales; increased profits; up-selling; cluster selling; complementary selling; better data collection: customer knowledge; customer profiles; target marketing; single entry data point across all channels; security, data protection; connection between information collected and how it is used*
- *Impacts of multi-channel retailing on customers: search facility: ease of access: ease of use; shop 24/7; save time; order and collect; delivery; view on any device, e.g. mobile phone, tablet, laptop, PC; leave and read customer reviews; customer enquiries, e.g. what's in stock, special offers, loyalty programmes; comparing products, e.g. colour, size, technical specifications; bestsellers; gift services, e.g. wedding lists*

AC1.4: Describe how distance selling legislation and consumer rights affect their area of retail operations, including web-based retail selling

- *Consumer rights, distance and web-based selling: Consumer Contracts Regulations; Consumer Rights Directive; key seller information; product descriptions; delivery and cancellation rights; faulty goods; substitute goods*

AC2.1: Describe the importance of providing a 'seamless' service to customers, irrespective of the customer journey undertaken

- *Customer journey: sales funnel; marketing channels; customer profiles; customer experience; brand promise; time span; research; conversion; sales*
- *Seamless service: real-time responses; resolution of queries; via customer's choice of channel; more options; knowledge specialists; no passing forward to other departments*
- *Importance of seamless services: impact of good customer service experience; impact of bad customer service experience; communications across multi-channels, e.g. voice, email, chat, web, social media*

AC2.2: Explain what providing a 'seamless' service means for them in their dealings with customers in-store

- *Seamless service: real-time responses; resolution of queries; via customer's choice of channel; more options; knowledge specialists; no passing forward to other departments*

AC2.3: Explain the opportunities to build customer relations when customers are in stores to collect and to return products purchased online

- *Building customer relations: brand promise; helpful; courteous; appropriate greeting, tone and language; listening skills; empathy; solve problems; knowledge and information; added value*

AC2.4: Describe how customers' attitudes and understanding of web-based technology can affect their customers' use of in-store web-based facilities

- *Customer attitudes towards and understanding of web-based technologies: demographics; digital immigrants; digital natives; digital dependents; social trends; social media; technological trends, e.g. mobile technologies, wearable technologies; security, trust*

Information for tutors

Suggested resources

Books

Martin C – *The Third Screen: Marketing to your Customers* (Nicholas Brearley Publishing, 2011)
ISBN 9781857885644

Stevens D – *Brilliant Customer Service (Brilliant Business)* (Pearson Education Ltd, 2010)
ISBN 9780273738077

Websites

www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/regulation/distance-selling-regulations – Which? guidance on Distance Selling Regulations

www.thinkwithgoogle.com/tools/customer-journey-to-online-purchase.html – online resource for exploring and understanding the customer journey

Journals

Retail Weekly
The Grocer

Assessment

This unit is internally assessed. To pass this unit the evidence the learner presents for assessment must demonstrate that they have met the required standard specified in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria and the requirements of the assessment strategy.

To ensure that the assessment tasks and activities enable learners to produce valid, sufficient, authentic and appropriate evidence that meet the assessment criteria, centres should apply the *Unit assessment guidance* provided below and the requirements of the assessment strategy in *Annexe A*.

Wherever possible, centres should adopt an holistic approach to assessing the units in the qualification. This gives the assessment process greater rigour and minimises repetition, time and the burden of assessment on all parties involved in the process.

Unit assessment guidance

This guidance supports assessors in making decisions about how best to assess the unit and the learner evidence needed to meet the assessment requirements. Centres can adapt the guidance as appropriate for learners and the particular assessment context.

Assessment by Portfolio of Evidence

The centre can devise and mark the assessment for this unit. Learners must meet all assessment criteria to pass the unit.

Learners can achieve learning outcome 1 through having access to a retail business's web-based facilities that they can use to demonstrate how the facilities should be operated. They should make comparisons with the websites of the business's main competitors. Learners can present a table or graphic representation of the features and associated benefits of the web-based facilities. A visual explanation of consumer rights should be included. This can be evidenced through a presentation and observation, a short video or onscreen capture of learners' descriptions and explanations. Evidence for this learning outcome should be presented from the retail organisation's point of view.

Evidence for learning outcome 2 could take the form of a series of discussions, case studies or work-based scenarios, examining several different customer profiles in different customer service scenarios. Looking at several customer service 'encounters' would enable learners to demonstrate building customer relations, including attempting to placate a customer returning goods for any reason.

This could be followed by a short report on the importance of a 'seamless' service to customers. Evidence for this learning outcome should be presented from the customer's point of view.

Unit 2: Understanding How to Maintain the Confidentiality and Security of Customer Data Held Online

Unit reference number: H/505/9383

QCF level: 2

Credit value: 2

Guided learning hours: 12

Unit summary

In this unit, learners will develop an understanding of how to secure and maintain confidential customer data held online, in accordance with their organisations procedures and legal requirements.

Learners will understand how the principles of the Data Protection Act are applied to organisational policies and processes in relation to retaining customer data online. They will learn about the different types of data held and how this data can be stored, used and shared.

Learners will develop an understanding of the consequences of failing to prevent breaches of confidentiality and security and the impact on the business, including how to respond to requests for information, in accordance with appropriate legislation and organisation procedures, and when they need to deal with suspected fraud cases.

Learners will understand the need for encryption and password security. They will learn how to send information securely and safely using a number of methods, depending on the value and sensitivity of the data, and explore the requirements of rendering computer data unreadable and disposing with computer media safely and securely.

Unit assessment requirements/evidence requirements

There are no specific requirements for this unit

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

To pass this unit, the learner needs to demonstrate that they can meet all the learning outcomes for the unit. The assessment criteria outline the requirements the learner is expected to meet to achieve the unit.

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
1 Understand legal and organisational requirements relating to the maintenance of online data confidentiality and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Describe legal and organisational requirements relating to maintaining the confidentiality and security of online customer data as these impact upon their area of operations1.2 Describe their own organisation's policies and guidelines for the recording, retention, protection and disposal of customer information held online1.3 Explain the different items of customer information that are required and why1.4 Describe organisational guidelines regarding the use of social media in relation to maintaining customer confidentiality1.5 Explain why protecting information is important to them, their own organisation and others outside the organisation1.6 Describe the potential implications of an information security incident to them, the organisation and others outside the organisation1.7 Describe customers' rights to see the data held about them by their own organisation1.8 Describe how to respond to requests from customers to see data held about them by their own organisation

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
<p>2 Understand the procedures to follow to maintain online data confidentiality and security</p>	<p>2.1 Describe how to protect information held online, including the use of encryption and passwords</p> <p>2.2 Explain the security checks required by the organisation before releasing information to a third party by telephone and online</p> <p>2.3 Explain the actions to take where a customer or third party is unable to satisfy the required security checks when seeking information by telephone and online</p> <p>2.4 Explain the actions to take where an attempt at fraud by a third party is suspected</p> <p>2.5 Describe methods of sending information securely according to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • values and sensitivity of the information • the level of protection that it needs <p>2.6 Describe organisational procedures in place to make sure that computer media is made unreadable, prior to its disposal</p>

Unit amplification

AC1.1: Describe legal and organisational requirements relating to maintaining the confidentiality and security of online customer data as these impact upon their area of operations

Data Protection Act 1998 (UK): the eight principles of data protection; definitions of types of data, e.g. personal data, sensitive data; different security levels between data types; age identification information linked to personal identification information; website, products apps; targeted at consumers aged under 13 years

AC1.2: Describe their own organisation's policies and guidelines for the recording, retention, protection and disposal of customer information held online

Data Protection Registration Record: what information will be stored; how it will be used; internal communications policy, e.g. who has access and how; information life cycle, e.g. how long it will be held for; security procedures; confidentiality procedures; retrieval systems; back-up systems; disposal procedures; staff training

AC1.3: Explain the different items of customer information that are required and why

Customer records: purpose of information held; personal data; data fields, e.g. name, contact information; adequate; relevant, e.g. employment history, credit history; must not be excessive; accurate; up to date

AC 1.4 Describe organisational guidelines regarding the use of social media in relation to maintaining customer confidentiality

Personal information; key design features in social media; draws on users' social connections, social media activities, location, address book; shares personal information with advertisers, friends; cross network connections; view data accessed; requests from government agencies; court orders; police search warrants; emergency cases; alert users to access requests; transparency reports, e.g. Google

AC1.5 Explain why protecting information is important to them, their own organisation and others outside the organisation

Individuals: identity theft; financial history; credit rating Organisation: business impact; financial penalties; legal implications; reputation; competitive edge

Customers: trust

AC1.6 Describe the potential implications of an information security incident to them, the organisation and others outside the organisation

Fines and financial penalties; negative publicity; being sued; loss of consumer trust; loss of business; systems failure; incident recovery costs

AC1.7 Describe customers' rights to see the data held about them by their own organisation

Rights of – subject access; correction; complaint to Information Commissioner

Rights to – prevent distress; prevent direct marketing; prevent automatic decisions; compensation; some exemptions to these rights

AC1.8 Describe how to respond to requests from customers to see data held about them by their own organisation

Organisational procedures; identity verification; exemptions and joint/third party information processes; allowed disclosure methods; data protection legislation; response times; fees; formats; exemptions

2.1 Describe how to protect information held online, including the use of encryption and passwords

Protecting information online: privacy policy; email privacy practices; Customer Personally Identifiable Information (PII); website security; online behavioural tracking; hardware policy, e.g. PC, tablet, laptops, smartphones

Use of encryption and passwords: security policy; full disk encryption; file encryption; mobile device tracking systems; data encryption software; password rules; password change schedule

2.2 Explain the security checks required by the organisation before releasing information to a third party by telephone and online

Consent procedures: who is making request; internal: staff; identity verification; level of authority; organisational guidelines; external; written requests; investigative bodies – policy and procedures

2.3 Explain the actions to take where a customer or third party is unable to satisfy the required security checks when seeking information by telephone and online

Customer: identify authentication process; knowledge-based profiling

Third party: organisational procedures; written requests; escalation process

2.4 Explain the actions to take where an attempt at fraud by a third party is suspected

Staff training; organisational procedures; levels of authority; escalation procedures; reporting procedures

2.5 Describe methods of sending information securely according to the values and sensitivity of the information and the level of protection that it needs

Personal information; financial information; sensitive information

Levels of protection of information: organisational policies; encryption services; secure file transfer services; mobile device security measures; security software

2.6 Describe organisational procedures in place to make sure that computer media is made unreadable, prior to its disposal

IT and media disposal policy; WEEE Regulations; media definitions; data destruction; media collections and disposal processes

Information for tutors

Suggested resources

Book

McKilligan NFJ and Powell NHE – *Data Protection Pocket Guide: Essential Facts* (British Standards Institution, 2009) ISBN 9780580444371

Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ict/legal/0dataprotectionactrev1.shtml – overview of the Data Protection Act 1998

www.direct.gov.uk – Data Protection Act 1998

www.dft.gov.uk/vca/enforcement/weee-enforcement.asp – WEEE Regulations

Journals

Retail Weekly

The Grocer

Assessment

This unit is internally assessed. To pass this unit the evidence the learner presents for assessment must demonstrate that they have met the required standard specified in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria and the requirements of the assessment strategy.

To ensure that the assessment tasks and activities enable learners to produce valid, sufficient, authentic and appropriate evidence that meet the assessment criteria, centres should apply the *Unit assessment guidance* provided below and the requirements of the assessment strategy in *Annexe A*.

Wherever possible, centres should adopt an holistic approach to assessing the units in the qualification. This gives the assessment process greater rigour and minimises repetition, time and the burden of assessment on all parties involved in the process.

Unit assessment guidance

This guidance supports assessors in making decisions about how best to assess the unit and the learner evidence needed to meet the assessment requirements. Centres can adapt the guidance as appropriate for learners and the particular assessment context.

The centre can devise and mark the assessment for this unit. Learners must meet all assessment criteria to pass the unit.

Learners can achieve learning outcome 1 by accessing an overview of the Data Protection Act 1998 and producing an outline of its main requirements. Learners should have access to examples of retail businesses' organisational policies and processes for dealing with the confidentiality and security of customer information. To demonstrate a full understanding of the learning outcome, learners could develop a set of organisational policies and processes that follow the requirements of the Data Protection Act, explaining customer rights and outlining how they will deal with the confidentiality and security of customer information, for a retail business they are familiar with.

Evidence for learning outcome 2 can take the form of a simulated activity or training exercise to so learners can demonstrate their understanding of how to deal with requests for personal confidential information. The activities should include a range of scenarios that include requests for personal information from customers and third parties. The scenarios should include opportunities for dealing with requests that do not satisfy the required security checks and where suspected fraud occurs. An email to a line manager or supervisor explaining the incidents dealt with, and the actions taken in line with organisational procedures, will provide evidence for the assessment criteria. Learners should then be involved in the safe disposal of the confidential data generated as a result of these activities

Unit 3: Using Web-based Facilities In-store to Achieve Retail Sales

Unit reference number: D/505/9379

QCF level: 2

Credit value: 2

Guided learning hours: 20

Unit summary

This unit assesses the occupational competence of individuals who use and promote their store's web-based retail facilities.

In this unit learners will operate their organisations' web-based retail facilities in line with organisational procedures and legislation, correctly and with confidence, to help customers with queries, such as checking the availability of stock, placing an online order, processing payments and applying discounts where appropriate. Learners will monitor and maintain good housekeeping in relation to the web-based retail facilities and know who to report any faults to, promptly and in a timely manner.

Learners should encourage customers to use their organisations' web-based retail facilities and make them aware of the scope of the facilities offered. Learners should communicate the features and benefits of the web-based retail facilities to customers, verbally and by involving them in demonstrations where appropriate, seeking feedback for improvements at all times.

Unit assessment requirements/evidence requirements

This unit requires workplace assessment of occupational competence.

Simulation is **not** allowed for any performance evidence in this unit.

The People1st Retail Assessment Principles for Retail Qualifications can be found on their website www.people1st.co.uk.

Evidence such as confidential documents must not be included in a portfolio, but their location must be recorded in other assessment documentation. All assessment evidence must be accessible for internal verifiers and Pearson standards verifiers.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

To pass this unit, the learner needs to demonstrate that they can meet all the learning outcomes for the unit. The assessment criteria outline the requirements the learner is expected to meet to achieve the unit.

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
1 Be able to operate their own organisation's web-based in-store retail selling facilities in support of their customers' retail experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Operate all aspects of the organisation's relevant web-based facilities correctly and with confidence1.2 Use web-based facilities for the benefit of customers, based upon identified customer needs1.3 Be proactive in checking online the availability of stock sought by customers1.4 Place orders online on behalf of customers, where relevant1.5 Process customer payments using web-based facilities, where relevant, applying appropriate discounts, in line with organisational requirements1.6 Explain their responsibilities for monitoring and maintaining good housekeeping in relation to the web-based retail facilities in-store1.7 Make sure that the selling of products within their area of operations complies with relevant legislation and regulatory requirements1.8 Make sure that web-based facilities in-store fulfil relevant housekeeping requirements1.9 Report any faults with web-based facilities in-store promptly to the relevant person

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
<p>2 Be able to promote customers' use of web-based in-store retail selling facilities</p>	<p>2.1 Explain the need to be sensitive to customers' attitudes to web-based technology, including how to respond to customers accordingly</p> <p>2.2 Make customers aware of the availability and scope of their own organisation's web-based facilities</p> <p>2.3 Communicate the features and benefits of web-based facilities enthusiastically and with confidence</p> <p>2.4 Respond to customer needs from, and interest in, web-based facilities</p> <p>2.5 Involve customers in the use of web-based processes where appropriate</p> <p>2.6 Refer any problems whilst customers are using the web-based facilities in-store to the appropriate person, where necessary</p> <p>2.7 Seek customer feedback regarding use of their own organisation's web-based facilities in-store</p>

Information for tutors

Suggested resources

Books

Blunt C, Hill-Wilson M – *Delivering Effective Social Customer Service* (John Wiley & Sons, 2013) ISBN 978-1-118-66267-0

Forrester D – *Turn Clicks Into Customers* (McGraw Hill Companies Inc, 2010) ISBN 978-0-071-63516-5

Thomas A, Applegate J – *Pay Attention: How to Listen, Respond and Profit From Customer Feedback* (John Wiley and Sons Inc, 2010) ISBN: 978-0-470-56355-7

Websites

www.businesszone.co.uk UK Business Forum content channel, research business terms; customer service, brands

www.marketingdonut.co.uk Marketing and business information resources

www.wikihow.com/upsell Sales techniques and how to upsell

Assessment

This unit is internally assessed. To pass this unit the evidence the learner presents for assessment must demonstrate that they have met the required standard specified in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria and the requirements of the assessment strategy.

To ensure that the assessment tasks and activities enable learners to produce valid, sufficient, authentic and appropriate evidence that meet the assessment criteria, centres should apply the *Unit assessment guidance* provided below and the requirements of the assessment strategy in *Annexe A*.

Wherever possible, centres should adopt an holistic approach to assessing the units in the qualification. This gives the assessment process greater rigour and minimises repetition, time and the burden of assessment on all parties involved in the process.

Unit assessment requirements

Simulation is not possible in this unit.

Unit assessment guidance

This guidance supports assessors in making decisions about how best to assess the unit and the learner evidence needed to meet the assessment requirements. Centres can adapt the guidance as appropriate for learners and the particular assessment context. The learners must meet all assessment criteria to pass the unit.

For learning outcome 1, learners need to be in their place of work or at a work placement. The main source of evidence for demonstrating achievement of the assessment criteria could be through a combination of direct observation, case studies, professional discussion and reflective accounts. These could be backed up by the learner's use of technology to produce business documents, work products and questions and answers (Q&A). Copies of any data or information the learner used when operating their organisation's trading website could be signposted to any case study or reflective account. As much of this product is likely to be 'commercially sensitive', it is recommended that this evidence is signposted and left in the workplace. Witness testimonies from colleagues and managers confirming that the learner has followed the organisation's procedures when meeting these assessment criteria, could also be used as supplementary evidence.

For learning outcome 2, learners will to be in their place of work or at a work placement. The main source of evidence for demonstrating achievement of the assessment criteria could be through a combination of direct observation, case studies, professional discussion and reflective accounts. These could be backed up by the learner's use of technology to produce business documents, work products and questions and answers (Q&A). Copies of any customer feedback the learner utilised could be referenced as evidence of customer involvement. Where possible, assessors could speak directly to customers and use any statements they make as supplementary evidence.

Unit 4: Advising and Supporting Customers on the Use of In-store Web-based Retail Facilities

Unit reference number: R/505/9380

QCF level: 2

Credit value: 3

Guided learning hours: 24

Unit summary

This unit assesses the occupational competence of individuals who are selling, promoting and advising customers on how to use in-store web-based retail facilities.

In this unit learners will develop an understanding of the balance needed between demonstration and instruction when supporting customers to use their organisations' in-store web-based facilities, as well as considering their customers' current level of expertise in and attitude towards using online technology.

Learners will promote the use of in-store web-based retail facilities to customers, relating the features and benefits to the needs of the customer. Learners will communicate clearly in a manner appropriate to customer needs and understanding, responding to questions and feedback on their organisations web-based facilities, in a way that promotes goodwill.

Learners will identify relevant people to whom they should forward feedback and suggestions.

Unit assessment requirements/evidence requirements

This unit requires workplace assessment of occupational competence.

Simulation is **not** allowed for any performance evidence in this unit.

The People1st Retail Assessment Principles for Retail Qualifications can be found on their website www.people1st.co.uk

Evidence such as confidential documents must not be included in a portfolio, but their location must be recorded in other assessment documentation. All assessment evidence must be accessible for internal verifiers and Pearson standards verifiers.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

To pass this unit, the learner needs to demonstrate that they can meet all the learning outcomes for the unit. The assessment criteria outline the requirements the learner is expected to meet to achieve the unit.

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
1 Understand factors to consider when advising and supporting customers on the use of in-store web-based retail facilities	1.1 Explain the importance of achieving a balance between demonstration, instruction and customers' own activity in operating the facilities, as appropriate to customers' levels of expertise, attitude and confidence in using web-based technology 1.2 Explain their own organisation's practices and requirements relating to advising and supporting customers on the use of the web-based facilities
2 Be able to address customers' requirements via in-store web-based retail selling facilities	2.1 Operate all aspects of their own organisation's web-based facilities correctly and with confidence 2.2 Determine customers' requirements in accessing web-based facilities 2.3 Assess customers' levels of understanding regarding how to use the web-based facilities

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
<p>3 Be able to promote and support customers' use of in-store web-based retail selling facilities</p>	<p>3.1 Promote use of the organisation's web-based facilities with enthusiasm, relating their features and benefits to the relevant needs of customers</p> <p>3.2 Explain the use of the facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearly and correctly • in a manner which promotes understanding • in a manner which is appropriate to their customers' existing appreciation and attitude to the technology being demonstrated <p>3.3 Provide opportunities for customers to ask questions, checking for understanding</p> <p>3.4 Respond to customers' questions in ways that promote sales and goodwill</p> <p>3.5 Support customers in operating in-store web-based facilities as appropriate to their customers' needs and levels of confidence in the use the web-based facilities</p>
<p>4 Be able to seek and use feedback regarding their own organisation's in-store web-based retail selling facilities</p>	<p>4.1 Seek feedback from customers upon the experience of using the organisation's web-based facilities</p> <p>4.2 Respond to customer feedback in ways that promote goodwill</p> <p>4.3 Report positive comments and any suggested improvements to the relevant person</p>

Unit amplification

AC1.1: Explain the importance of achieving a balance between demonstration, instruction and customers' own activity in operating the facilities, as appropriate to customers' levels of expertise, attitude and confidence in using web-based technology

Customer expertise: confirm customer's technical knowledge; clear communication skills with open and non-threatening questions; understand customer's support requirements; explain and summarise; answer all questions and check for understanding; give customer confidence to use web-based technology so a transaction is more likely

AC1.2: Explain their own organisation's practices and requirements relating to advising and supporting customers on the use of the web-based facilities

Organisational requirements: access; understanding of data protection legislation; communication and questioning techniques; customer service procedures and policies; staff training; understanding of when assistance or further authority is required from colleagues or senior managers

Information for tutors

Suggested resources

Books

Scott Meerman D – *The New Rules of Marketing and PR* (Wiley Publishers Inc, 2013)
ISBN 978-1-118-48876-8

Fernie J, Fernie S, Moore C – *The Principles of Retailing* (Routledge, 2011) ISBN-13: 978-0-64703-8

Scott Meerman D – *The New Rules of Marketing and PR* (Wiley Publishers Inc, 2013)
ISBN 978-1-118-48876-8

Stevens Debra – *Brilliant Customer Service* (Brilliant Business) (Pearson Education Ltd, 2010)
ISBN 978-0-273-73807-7

Websites

www.businesszone.co.uk UK Business Forum content channel. Research business terms; customer service, brands

www.marketingdonut.co.uk Marketing and business information resources

www.wikihow.com/upsell Sales techniques and how to upsell

Assessment

This unit is internally assessed. To pass this unit the evidence the learner presents for assessment must demonstrate that they have met the required standard specified in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria and the requirements of the assessment strategy.

To ensure that the assessment tasks and activities enable learners to produce valid, sufficient, authentic and appropriate evidence that meet the assessment criteria, centres should apply the *Unit assessment guidance* provided below and the requirements of the assessment strategy in *Annexe A*.

Wherever possible, centres should adopt an holistic approach to assessing the units in the qualification. This gives the assessment process greater rigour and minimises repetition, time and the burden of assessment on all parties involved in the process.

Unit assessment requirements

Simulation is not allowed for any performance evidence within this unit.

Unit assessment guidance

This guidance supports assessors in making decisions about how best to assess the unit and the learner evidence needed to meet the assessment requirements. Centres can adapt the guidance as appropriate for learners and the particular assessment context.

The centre can devise and mark the assessment for this unit. Learners must meet all assessment criteria to pass the unit. Learners will need to be in their place of work or at a work placement to achieve all the assessment criteria within the competence-based learning outcomes.

Learners can achieve learning outcome 1 by having access to examples of their retail organisation's policies and processes for supporting and advising customers on the use of in-store web-based retail facilities. Learners could initially use these to explain, in detail, their organisation's practices. Assessment could take the form of a training exercise or role play that follows several customer 'encounters', which would enable learners to demonstrate the different factors that have to be taken into account when achieving the balance between instruction and the customer's own activity and confidence. Learners could produce a short report confirming their understanding to support the role play and confirm that the assessment criteria have been met.

The main source of evidence for demonstrating achievement of learning outcome 2 could be through a combination of direct observation and reflective accounts. Any product evidence that supports the observations or reflective accounts could be signposted by the assessor and left in the workplace. Witness testimonies from colleagues and managers, that confirm the learner followed the organisation's procedures when meeting these assessment criteria, could be used as supporting evidence.

The main source of evidence for demonstrating achievement of learning outcome 3 could be through a combination of direct observation and reflective accounts. Any assessor observations must focus on the learner following all organisational guidelines and concentrating on the customer at all times. Witness testimonies from colleagues and managers, that confirm the learner has dealt with customers correctly in a manner that promotes understanding and uses open questioning techniques, could be used as supporting evidence.

The main source of evidence for demonstrating achievement of learning outcome 4 could be through a combination of direct observation and reflective accounts. Any product evidence that could support the observations or reflective accounts could be signposted by the assessor and left in the workplace. Witness testimonies from colleagues and managers, that confirm the learner followed the organisation's procedures when meeting these assessment criteria, could be used as supporting evidence.

Unit 5: Maintaining Data Confidentiality and Security when Using Web-based Retail Facilities In-store

Unit reference number: D/505/9382

QCF level: 2

Credit value: 2

Guided learning hours: 11

Unit summary

This unit assesses the occupational competence of individuals who use web-based facilities to record and retain customer data.

In this unit, learners will check information held online ensuring it is accurate and that all changes are authorised. Learners will record confidential customer data securely, ensuring that the appropriate level of encryption is maintained while the data is stored, and that the data is destroyed in a secure manner and in line with organisational procedures.

Learners will follow their organisations' procedures and regulatory requirements for any request to share information with third parties. Learners will satisfy all security checks prior to releasing and sharing the relevant information with authorised third parties, using a secure method to send the information.

Learners will go to the relevant person for guidance on maintaining the security of data and sharing information with third parties.

Unit assessment requirements/evidence requirements

This unit requires workplace assessment of occupational competence.

Simulation is **not** allowed for any performance evidence in this unit.

The People1st Retail Assessment Principles for Retail Qualifications can be found on their website www.people1st.co.uk

Evidence such as confidential documents must not be included in a portfolio, but their location must be recorded in other assessment documentation. All assessment evidence must be accessible for internal verifiers and Pearson standards verifiers.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

To pass this unit, the learner needs to demonstrate that they can meet all the learning outcomes for the unit. The assessment criteria outline the requirements the learner is expected to meet to achieve the unit.

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
1 Be able to maintain the confidentiality and security of data regarding customers when recording and retaining online data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Make sure that documents, computers or electronic equipment containing sensitive information are kept secure1.2 Check that online information is not changed in any unauthorised way, in line with organisational procedures1.3 Encrypt all data entered electronically, where required1.4 Make a record of only that information that needs to be recorded, according to organisational requirements1.5 Keep all records of confidential information away from public display1.6 Protect confidentiality by checking that information is destroyed properly when it is no longer required1.7 Seek guidance from the relevant person about maintaining the security of data, when required1.8 Maintain organisational requirements relating to the confidentiality and security of data

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
<p>2 Be able to maintain the confidentiality and security of data held online when sharing information with third parties in line with organisational requirements</p>	<p>2.1 Check that any parties seeking information have the authority to receive it, following organisational procedures</p> <p>2.2 Provide information to third parties only where they have satisfied relevant security checks, in line with organisational procedures</p> <p>2.3 Provide relevant information only to those who need to use the information</p> <p>2.4 Check with the relevant person that the learner has the authority to release information to others, where necessary</p> <p>2.5 Use secure methods of sending information to third parties, when required, in line with organisational procedures</p>

Information for tutors

Suggested resources

Book

McKilligan NFJ and Powell NHE – *Data Protection Pocket Guide: Essential Facts*

(British Standards Institution, 2009) ISBN 978-0580675614 Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ict/legal/0dataprotectionactrev1.shtml – overview of the Data Protection Act 1998

www.direct.gov.uk – Data Protection Act 1998

www.dft.gov.uk/vca/enforcement/weee-enforcement.asp – WEEE Regulations

Assessment

This unit is internally assessed. To pass this unit the evidence the learner presents for assessment must demonstrate that they have met the required standard specified in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria and the requirements of the assessment strategy.

To ensure that the assessment tasks and activities enable learners to produce valid, sufficient, authentic and appropriate evidence that meet the assessment criteria, centres should apply the *Unit assessment guidance* provided below and the requirements of the assessment strategy in *Annexe A*.

Wherever possible, centres should adopt an holistic approach to assessing the units in the qualification. This gives the assessment process greater rigour and minimises repetition, time and the burden of assessment on all parties involved in the process.

Unit assessment guidance

This guidance supports assessors in making decisions about how best to assess the unit and the learner evidence needed to meet the assessment requirements. Centres can adapt the guidance as appropriate for learners and the particular assessment context.

The centre can devise and mark the assessment for this unit. Learners must meet all assessment criteria to pass the unit. Learners will need to be in their place of work or at a work placement to achieve all assessment criteria within the competence-based performance learning outcomes.

For learning outcome 1, learners need to be in their place of work or at a work placement. The main source of evidence for demonstrating achievement of the assessment criteria could be through a combination of direct observation, case studies, professional discussion and reflective accounts. These could be backed up by the learner's use of technology to produce business documents, work products and questions and answers (Q&A). Assessors must ensure that the learner follows all legal requirements and the organisation's policies and procedures regarding data protection and confidentiality. Copies of any data or information the learner used when operating their organisation's trading website could be signposted to any case study or reflective account. As much of this product is likely to be 'commercial in confidence' it is recommended that this evidence is signposted and left in the workplace. Tutors could annotate it to record that it has been seen by them for a clear audit trail of evidence. Witness testimonies from colleagues or managers could be used to confirm that the learner requested guidance from an appropriate person about maintaining the security of data.

The main source of evidence for demonstrating the achievement learning outcome 2 could be through a combination of direct observation, case studies, professional discussion and reflective accounts. These could be backed up by the learner's use of technology to produce business documents, work products and questions and answers (Q&A). Assessors must ensure that the learner follows all legal requirements and the organisation's policies and procedures for maintaining the confidentiality and security of data when sharing information online. Copies of any data or information the learner used when operating their organisation's trading website could be signposted to any case study or reflective account. As much of this product is likely to be 'commercially sensitive', it is recommended that this evidence is signposted and left in the workplace. Tutors could annotate it to record that it has been seen by them for a clear audit trail of evidence. Witness testimonies from colleagues and managers could be used to confirm that the learner checked with the relevant person before releasing information.

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12 Further information and useful publications

To get in touch with us visit our 'Contact us' pages:

- Edexcel: www.edexcel.com/contactus
- BTEC: www.btec.co.uk/contactus
- Pearson Work Based Learning: www.edexcel.com/about-wbl/Pages/Contact-us.aspx
- books, software and online resources for UK schools and colleges:
www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk

Key publications:

- *Adjustments for candidates with disabilities and learning difficulties – Access and Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments, General and Vocational qualifications* (Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ))
- *Equality Policy* (Pearson)
- *Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and Process* (Pearson)
- *UK Information Manual* (Pearson)
- *BTEC Apprenticeships Quality Assurance Handbook* (Pearson)
- *UK Quality Vocational Assurance Handbook* (Pearson).

All of these publications are available on our website.

Further information and publications on the delivery and quality assurance of NVQ/Competence-based qualifications are available on our website.

Our publications catalogue lists all the material available to support our qualifications. To access the catalogue and order publications, please go to the resources page of our website.

13 Professional development and training

Professional development and training

Pearson supports UK and international customers with training related to our qualifications. This support is available through a choice of training options offered on our website: qualifications.pearson.com

The support we offer focuses on a range of issues, such as:

- planning for the delivery of a new programme
- planning for assessment and grading
- developing effective assignments
- building your team and teamwork skills
- developing learner-centred learning and teaching approaches
- building in effective and efficient quality assurance systems.

The national programme of training we offer is on our website. You can request centre-based training through the website or you can contact one of our advisers in the Training from Pearson UK team via Customer Services to discuss your training needs.

Training and support for the lifetime of the qualifications

Training and networks: our training programme ranges from free introductory events through sector-specific opportunities to detailed training on all aspects of delivery, assignments and assessment. We also host some regional network events to allow you to share your experiences, ideas and best practice with colleagues in your region.

Regional support: our team of Regional Quality Managers, based around the country, are responsible for providing quality assurance support and guidance to anyone managing and delivering NVQs/Competence-based qualifications. The Regional Quality Managers can support you at all stages of the standard verification process as well as in finding resolutions of actions and recommendations as required.

To get in touch with our dedicated support teams please visit our website.

Online support: find the answers to your questions by browsing over 100 FAQs on our website or by submitting a query using our Work Based Learning Ask the Expert Service. You can search the database of commonly asked questions relating to all aspects of our qualifications in the work-based learning market. If you are unable to find the information you need, send us your query and our qualification or administrative experts will get back to you. The Ask the Expert service is available on our website at: qualifications.pearson.com

Online forum

Pearson Work Based Learning Communities is an online forum where employers, further education colleges and workplace training providers can seek advice and clarification about any aspect of our qualifications and services, and share knowledge and information with others. The forums are sector specific and cover business administration, customer service, health and social care, hospitality and catering and retail. The online forum is available on our website at qualifications.pearson.com

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14 Contact us

We have a dedicated Account Support team, across the UK, to give you more personalised support and advice. To contact your Account Specialist:

Email: wblcustomerservices@pearson.com

Telephone: 0844 576 0045

If you are new to Pearson and would like to become an approved centre, please contact us by:

Email: wbl@pearson.com

Telephone: 0844 576 0045

Complaints and feedback

We are working hard to give you excellent service. However, if any element of our service falls below your expectations, we want to understand why, so that we can prevent it from happening again. We will do all that we can to put things right.

If you would like to register a complaint with us, please email wblcomplaints@pearson.com.

We will formally acknowledge your complaint within two working days of receipt and provide a full response within seven working days.

People 1st Retail Sector Assessment Principles for the Qualifications and Credit Framework

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1 Key principles

Assessment methodologies and guidance for qualifications in the retail sector are developed and interpreted in accordance with the following key principles:

Principle 1: Assessment should contribute to developing a skilled workforce	Assessment practice in the retail sector should contribute to the development of a skilled workforce. The choice and application of assessment methods must be consistent with this principle.
Principle 2: Systems for capturing evidence of competence should be integrated	Skills formation in the retail sector, as delivered through staff induction and ongoing training and development programmes, reflects the unique character and culture of the organisation. To this end, the assessment systems for both competence-based and the knowledge-based qualifications should, where possible, be integrated with organisations' training and HR models for developing and recognising the knowledge and competence of their workforce.
Principle 3: Assessment methods should be appropriate for the level and nature of the qualification units to be assessed	Methods of assessing achievement against learning outcomes and assessment criteria must be appropriate for the level being assessed and sector expectations of candidates at that level.
Principle 4: Evidence of competence should come from workplace activity	The sector's competence-based qualifications recognise competence in the workplace. Evidence of competence should therefore come from workplace activity and aim to reflect attainment within an organisational context. Observation should be the principle method to assess individuals at Level 2, but other methods such as professional discussion and assignments may be appropriate to assess achievement at Levels 3 and above.

2 Knowledge-based qualifications

Assessment methodologies for the retail sector's knowledge-based qualifications are developed by the Awarding Organisations that offer them. Assessment methodologies should be consistent with Principles 1, 2 and 3 as set out in section 1 of this document.

3 Applied qualifications

Qualifications have been developed by Awarding Organisations and People 1st that use applied learning techniques and are delivered through full and part-time education. Qualifications for the fashion retail sector are included in this category.

Applied qualifications typically combine theory and its practical application. They are based on shared units and are open to be offered by all retail awarding partners. The assessment methodology for these qualifications is developed by Awarding Organisations and the evidence of success gathered must include evidence of the practical application of knowledge and, where required, work placements.

4 Competence-based and combined qualifications (Retail Skills)

4.1 The use and application of simulation

In broad terms, the retail sector holds the view that simulation is a practical and effective tool for establishing skill and understanding, where naturally occurring evidence of competence is unavailable or infrequent. However the sector feels that there is very little that can be assessed by simulation with the exception of:

- some aspects of Health & Safety and Security, and
- some basic functions that do not involve interaction with customers.

People 1st requires that Awarding Organisations:

- a Discourage the inappropriate use of competence-based qualifications by organisations that do not assess candidates in a working environment. Competence-based qualifications are suitable only for learners who are in some form of employment in the sector, or, in a limited set of contexts, are being prepared for work and will be assessed in a realistic working environment (see section 4.1.2 below for definition).
- b Establish criteria to ensure that simulation is not used as the sole form of evidence for any unit of a competence-based qualification, except where allowed for specific units that meet the criteria set out in Section 4.1.1 of these Assessment Principles. This should be expressed in guidance for qualifications operating in the sector.
- c Provide clear guidance to centres to indicate that evidence towards a competence-based qualification should come from the workplace except where simulation is expressly allowed in the evidence requirements for a particular unit. Workplace evidence may be gathered in the context of full, part-time, casual or voluntary employment. Assessment may be undertaken in a 'work placement' (i.e. fulltime students placed into a working environment for a day per week) although supporting evidence from a supervisor or manager, associated with some form of work activity, must supplement the assessment process.

4.1.1 Use of simulation as an assessment method

Assessment for competence-based units must always be carried out in a retail environment except where a Realistic Working Environment (as defined in 4.1.2) is permitted for simulation. Simulation is allowed only where:

- the assessment criteria require the learner to respond to an emergency;
- a unit covers a limited selection of basic functions which need not involve interacting with customers;
- a unit originates from another SSC or SSB and the originator expressly allows simulation to be used for that unit.

A list of those units for which simulation is allowed is appended to this document

Evidence generated from simulated activities will not be acceptable for any other unit.

4.1.2 Definition of a Realistic Working Environment (RWE)

Where simulation is used the sector requires that:

- a Simulation must be undertaken in a Realistic Working Environment
- b Awarding Organisations provide guidance for centres that requires that Realistic Working Environments:

"provide an environment that replicates the key characteristics of the workplace in which the skill to be assessed is normally employed".

A Realistic Working Environment (for the purpose of simulated work activities) is regarded as one that replicates a real working environment. For example, a college shop that operates on a commercial basis (i.e. it has a profit and loss account) is acceptable for retail environments but a shop laid out in a classroom environment is not. However, in order to prevent any barriers to achievement, simulated activity may be used for assessment purposes within a real working environment.

4.2 The role and competence of assessors, expert witnesses and verifiers

A wide variety of factors affect the participation of organisations and take-up by individuals of competence-based qualifications. These issues relate to other matters as well as the quality of an assessment process but are central to the way assessment is managed.

To this end, People 1st requires that the following conditions be fulfilled.

4.2.1 The role of supervisors and managers in the assessment process

Wherever possible, assessment should be conducted by supervisors and/or managers in a workplace environment. Where the skill or capability of these individuals is inadequate to deliver the requirements of the organisation or the quality infrastructure, services external to the work unit or organisation may be introduced (peripatetic assessors). If the candidate is employed in the retail sector, in no circumstances may a competence-based qualification for the retail sector be delivered without the involvement of the candidate's line manager or the owner/manager to confirm the candidate's competence.

Where in-store line managers carry out the assessment or internal verification roles, retail stores with the agreement of their Awarding Organisation may choose between:

- a achieving the appropriate regulatory authority approved qualifications for assessment and internal verification

OR

- b demonstrating that training and development activity undertaken by the employer to prepare, validate and review these assessment/verification roles, maps 100% to the National Occupational Standards on which these qualifications are based. The mapping process **must be agreed** by the Awarding Organisation as providing the equivalent level of rigour and robustness as the achievement of the qualification.

The alternative option described in (b) above, which waives the need for the regulatory approved units in the retail sector, must be applied on an 'organisation by organisation' and 'qualification by qualification' basis. **Prospective organisations must be able to confirm that their in-house practices conform to the requirements of the NOS in association with the prospective Awarding Organisation who will be offering the qualification.**

4.2.2 The role of peripatetic assessors and internal verifiers in the assessment process

Peripatetic assessors and internal verifiers must hold or be working towards the appropriate regulatory authority approved qualifications for assessment and internal verification.

The services offered by the peripatetic assessor must complement the activity of a line manager or owner/manager and the competence of a candidate employed in the retail sector may not be confirmed without the participation of a line manager or owner/manager in the process. It is also requested that specific reference be made to auditing this provision, within external verification processes.

4.2.3 The role of expert witnesses in the assessment process

There are a number of specialist sub-sectors in retail. Consequently the sector has competence-based units relating to specialisms such as bakery, beauty consultancy and visual merchandising. In many cases assessors will not have the requisite experience of these specialist areas. In these instances the assessor **must use** an expert witness to provide evidence in confirming to the candidate's competence.

An expert witness is an experienced peer of the candidate, or the candidate's line manager. The expert witness is not consulted as a professional assessor, but as someone who is expert in the occupation to be assessed. The assessor will make the final judgement.

A list is appended of those units for which expert witness testimony is required, should the assessor lack the necessary occupational competence.

4.2.4 Occupational competence of expert witnesses

Expert witnesses can be drawn from a wide range of people who can attest to performance in the workplace, including line managers and experienced colleagues from inside the candidate's organisation. People 1st requires that expert witnesses have proven practical experience and knowledge relating to the content of the unit being assessed.

It is unlikely that someone could become an expert in their entire job role in less than six to twelve months of being employed in the retail sector. They could, however, very quickly become an expert in the content of a single unit if this was the focus of their job role. The assessor should make a judgement as to the level of expertise held by a potential expert witness and, where necessary, confirm this with a member of the store management team.

4.2.5 Occupational competence of assessors

Assessors in the retail sector should have an in-depth knowledge of, and be competent in performing, the occupational requirements of the generic competence-based units as well as any specialist units for which they do not use expert witness testimony.

This competence will have been acquired either in direct employment in the occupational role to which the unit relates, or in employment as a manager, supervisor or in-house trainer of employees carrying out the role.

It is unlikely that occupational competence will have been achieved in less than twelve months of employment as a retail assistant, or less than six months in a managerial position, but individuals with less experience could be considered as assessors if sufficiently occupationally competent.

4.2.6 Occupational competence of verifiers

Internal Verifiers (or equivalent quality assurance experts) in the retail sector must have a current understanding of the structure, content and occupational requirements of the units that they are internally verifying. This understanding will have been acquired while working directly within the relevant occupational area in either an operational or a support function.

The level of understanding should be sufficient to allow the Internal Verifier to judge whether the assessor has fully assessed learners against all the assessment criteria in the unit.

It is unlikely that a person could have gained this level of understanding in less than six months of being employed in the retail sector, but individuals with less experience could be considered as Internal Verifiers if they have the required level of understanding.

External Verifiers (or equivalent quality assurance experts) in the retail sector must have a current understanding of the occupational requirements of the units they are verifying. This understanding will have been acquired while working within the relevant occupational area in either an operational or a support function.

The External Verifier must understand the requirements of the units sufficiently well to be able to determine whether sufficient evidence of the learner's competence has been collected.

It is unlikely that a person could have gained this level of understanding in less than six months of being employed in the retail sector, but individuals with less experience could be considered as External Verifiers if they have the required level of understanding.

4.2.7 Continuing professional development of assessors and verifiers

All assessors and verifiers, if not currently employed within a retail organisation, will need to prove they have a current working knowledge of the sector they are assessing or verifying. This can be demonstrated by maintaining records of evidence from occupational updating activities such as:

- Internal or external work experience
- Internal or external work shadowing opportunities
- Other relevant CPD activities with the prior approval of the Awarding Organisations

Note: Retailers who have chosen not to use the regulatory authority approved qualifications for assessment and internal verification should be encouraged to offer the qualifications as CPD where the willingness by the employer to support this additional activity becomes known to the Awarding Organisation.

4.3 External quality control of assessment

The application and implementation of external quality control (i.e. independent assessment, external moderation, tests and projects) has been thoroughly researched and employers felt it was neither feasible nor practical. The rationale supported by employers was that a robust quality system is based upon processes associated with risk assessment and management.

The Awarding Organisation's risk rating system must be auditable by the regulatory authority.

4.3.1 Risk identification

In order to achieve the required level of external quality control, the Awarding Organisation must undertake a risk assessment of **each** prospective centre at the point of **application for approval to offer any retail qualification**. The Awarding Organisation must obtain information on a number of specified 'risk factors' for each prospective centre at the point of approval. People 1st would recommend the following, but Awarding Organisations should feel free to recommend alternative risk factors if more appropriate:

- Prospective centres' experience of operating competence-based qualifications;
- The appropriateness of existing systems, or systems developed to meet the requirements of other quality assurance regimes, for the delivery of competence-based qualifications;
- Whether the prospective centre has had a previous application for centre approval refused or their approval status withdrawn;
- The proposed ratio of candidates to assessors and Internal Verifiers, taking account of whether the assessors and Internal Verifiers are full-time or part-time in their roles;
- Whether candidates are going to be in employment (paid or voluntary), on work placements or learning in a Realistic Working Environment (see section 4.1.2 for definition).

The Awarding Organisation must have a **method of rating** the prospective centre against each of the risk factors noted above, including an overall rating that identifies the level of risk associated with the prospective centre. The rating should then be used by the Awarding Organisation in determining the degree of support during the first year of approval.

4.3.2 Risk management

In order to identify and manage risk during ongoing centre operation, the Awarding Organisation must undertake a **yearly risk assessment of each active centre for the retail sector competence-based qualifications**. The Awarding Organisation must obtain information on a number of specified 'risk factors' for each centre. People 1st would recommend the following, but Awarding Organisations should feel free to recommend alternative risk factors, which would be more appropriate.

- The turnover of assessors and internal verifiers.
- The throughput of candidates.
- The ratio of candidates to assessors and internal verifiers, taking account of whether the assessors and internal verifiers are full-time or part-time in their roles.
- Whether public funding is being accessed for the training of candidates towards/assessment of candidates for the competence-based qualifications.
- Whether candidates are in employment (paid or voluntary), on work placements or learning in a realistic working environment (see section 4.1.2 for definition).

The Awarding Organisation must have a **method of rating** each centre against each of the risk factors noted above and, also, producing an overall rating which identifies the level of risk associated with the centre. The rating should then be used by the Awarding Organisation to assist in determining the level of ongoing support for the centre, including the level of external verification activity.

4.4 Combined qualifications

The multi-channel retail specific qualifications are made up of combined units as requested by employers. These units contain both competence and knowledge assessments. Competence assessments should be carried out in line with the guidance for retail skills qualifications as outlined in section 4 of this assessment strategy. The knowledge assessments should be carried out independently in line with the guidance in section 2 of this assessment strategy.

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Appendix 1: Qualifications covered by these Assessment Principles

Competence-based

Level 1 Award in Retail Skills
Level 1 Certificate in Retail Skills
Level 1 Diploma in Retail Skills

Level 2 Award in Retail Skills
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Skills
Level 2 Diploma in Retail Skills

Level 3 Certificate in Retail Skills (Sales Professional)
Level 3 Certificate in Retail Skills (Visual Merchandising)
Level 3 Certificate in Retail Skills (Management)

Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Sales Professional)
Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Visual Merchandising)
Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Management)

Combined

Level 3 Diploma in Multi-channel Retail

Knowledge-based

Level 1 Award in Retail Knowledge
Level 1 Award in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising)
Level 2 Award in Retail Knowledge
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising – Building)
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising – Domestic Heating and Plumbing)
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising – Commercial Heating)
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising – Timber)
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising – Electrical)
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising – Climate Management)
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising – Building Interiors)
Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising – General)
Level 2 Diploma in Retail Knowledge
Level 2 Diploma in Retail Knowledge (Construction and Electrical Merchandising)

Level 3 Award in Retail Knowledge
Level 3 Certificate in Retail Knowledge
Level 3 Diploma in Retail Knowledge
Level 3 Diploma in Retail Knowledge (Garden Retail)

Appendix 2: Retail Skills units for which simulated activities are allowed

This list includes only People 1st units. For guidance on assessing imported units, please refer to the relevant sector's own assessment principles.

P1st ref.	Unit title	URN on RITS
B.01	Move goods and materials manually in a retail environment	F/503/5656
B.02	Keep stock at required levels in a retail environment	J/503/5657
B.17	Organise own work to meet a dough production schedule in a retail environment	A/503/5672
C.01	Wrap and pack goods for customers in a retail environment	K/503/5683
E.01	Recognise and report security risks in a retail environment	F/503/5723
E.02	Comply with workplace health and safety requirements in a retail environment	J/503/5724
E.03	Work effectively in a retail team	L/503/5725
E.04	Keep the non-food retail environment clean and tidy	R/503/5726
E.06	Protect own and others' health and safety when working in a retail environment	Y/503/5727
E.07	Reduce security risks in a retail environment	D/503/5728
E.11	Manage the prevention of wastage and loss in a retail environment	H/503/5732
E.18	Monitor and maintain health and safety in a retail environment	M/503/5734

Appendix 3: Retail Skills units for which expert witness testimony is allowed if the assessor is not expert in the specialism covered by the unit

This list includes only People 1st units. For guidance on assessing imported units, please refer to the relevant sector's own assessment principles.

P1st ref.	Unit title	URN on RITS
B.11	Hand-process fish in a retail environment	K/503/5666
B.12	Process greengrocery products for sale in a retail environment	M/503/5667
B.13	Finish meat products by hand in a retail environment	T/503/5668
B.17	Organise own work to meet a dough production schedule in a retail environment	A/503/5672
B.20	Maintain food safety while working with food in a retail environment	F/503/5673
B.21	Maintain food safety while working with food in a retail environment	J/503/5674
B.22	Monitor and help improve food safety in a retail environment	L/503/5675
B.35	Finish bake-off food products in a retail environment	H/503/5679
B.36	Glaze, coat or decorate bake-off products for sale in a retail environment	Y/503/5680
C.09	Process applications for credit agreements offered in a retail environment	F/503/5690
C.12	Promote loyalty schemes to customers in a retail environment	J/503/5691
C.17	Provide a bra fitting service in a retail environment	Y/503/5694
C.18	Follow guidelines for planning and preparing visual merchandising displays	D/503/5695
C.19	Dress visual merchandising displays to attract customers	H/503/5696
C.20	Order and position signage and graphics for visual merchandising displays	K/503/5697
C.21	Dismantle and store props and graphics from visual merchandising displays	M/503/5698
C.22	Make props and decorate fixtures and panels for visual merchandising displays	T/503/5699
C.23	Assemble visual merchandising displays	D/503/5700
C.24	Choose merchandise to feature in visual merchandising displays	H/503/5701
C.25	Manage the use of signage and graphics in visual merchandising displays	K/503/5702
C.26	Evaluate the effectiveness of visual merchandising displays	M/503/5703
C.27	Manage budgets for visual merchandising projects	T/503/5704
C.28	Contribute to improving a retail organisation's visual merchandising policy	A/503/5705
C.29	Design visual merchandising display layouts	F/503/5706
C.37	Provide National Lottery products to customers	L/503/5708
C.42	Advise customers on the fixing and care of tiles	R/503/5709
C.45	Help customers to choose alcoholic beverages in a retail	J/503/5710

P1st ref.	Unit title	URN on RITS
	environment	
C.47	Promote a retail store's credit card to customers in a retail environment	R/503/5712
C.52	Help customers to apply for a retail store's credit card and associated insurance products	M/503/5717
C.54	Help customers to choose delicatessen products in a retail environment	T/503/5718
C.55	Portion delicatessen products to meet customer requirements in a retail environment	A/503/5719
C.59	Demonstrate make-up and skincare products to customers at a beauty counter in a retail environment	T/503/5721
C.60	Operate a customer record card system on a beauty counter in a retail environment	A/503/5722
E.12	Produce staffing schedules to help a retail team to achieve its targets	K/503/5733

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