



## **National Progression Award (NPA) in Supply Chain Operations at SCQF level 5**

### **General Introduction to NPAs**

National Progression Awards (NPAs) are designed to help people reach their goals. They are short, concise qualifications and are available in a variety of sectors including Food Safety Logistics; Supply Chain Operations; Construction; Digital Literacy and Social Software. They're aimed at developing and assessing an agreed set of skills and knowledge in particular work sectors and they link to larger qualifications such as SVQs so are an excellent basis to progress to bigger or higher level qualifications.

NPAs are delivered in partnership between schools, colleges, external training companies and employers. However, they're mainly used for short study programmes, such as return-to-work courses or part-time learning for those already in work.

NPAs are divided into a number of Units and the usual structure is a range of mandatory Units (you must do them) and a choice of optional Units, where your tutor/assessor can help you select the most appropriate Units. The Units are 'vocational' so where possible should be work-based and will involve a variety of assessments, such as multiple choice questions; practical tests and written statements etc.

There is no set timing or deadlines for you to achieve NPAs but they are concise qualifications which are aimed at being achieved in a short timescale. You need to choose an NPA at the correct level for you. NPAs are available from the basic SCQF Level 2 (which is Access 2 Level) to SCQF Level 6 (which is Higher Level/SVQ level 3).

### **NPA in Supply Chain Operations at SCQF level 5 (G93X 45)**

This qualification which is at SCQF level 5 (Intermediate 2 level/SVQ level 2) aims to help you enhance your employability skills by developing your knowledge and understanding of supply chain operations. This NPA is divided into a number of Units each of which covers different aspects of this sector. Two of these Units are mandatory (you must do them) and cover how the supply chain works and the customers and suppliers in the supply chain. There is also a range of other Units giving you the chance to develop other relevant skills in the supply chain, such as flow of orders; transportation of goods; safety, security and sustainability aspects of the supply chain; and personal development.

In order to achieve this NPA you must complete a total of four Units, the two mandatory Units and two Units from the optional section.

**Mandatory section** – you must complete both mandatory Units

Unit Title	SQA code	SCQF level
How a Supply Chain Works	F4SX 11	5
Customers and Suppliers in a Supply Chain	F4SY 11	5

**Optional section** – you must complete a further two Units from this section

Unit Title	SQA code	SCQF level
Flow of Orders in the Supply Chain	F4T0 12	6
Distribution and Storage of Goods	F4T1 11	5
Transportation of goods	F4T2 11	5
Safety, Security and Sustainability in the Supply Chain	F4T3 11	5
Personal Development: Self and Work	H18P 45	5

As the Units in this NPA are closely linked to industry standards, they should be based on supply chain work situations. There are assessments for each Unit which will be fully explained to you by your tutor/assessor but these could include practical tests; multiple choice questions; case studies; short written responses etc.

If you are currently working in the logistics sector and you achieve this NPA, it may help you to progress to promoted posts within your organisation. However, if you are currently unemployed or working in other sectors, achieving this NPA may help you to access employment in the logistics sector.

Alternatively, on achieving this NPA, you may continue training/education where a variety of related courses are available, eg the NPA in Food Safety Logistics at SCQF level 5 (which aims to develop employability skills in Food Safety aspects of the logistics sector and includes three optional Units from this NPA); HNC/D in Supply Chain Management; SVQs in Driving Goods Vehicles; Skills for Logistics Modern Apprenticeships etc.

Typical employment or job roles in the logistics sector include assistant buyer; distribution assistant; logistics operative; materials handler; purchasing assistant; freight forwarding assistant; warehouse assistant etc.