

SQA ACCREDITATION CASE STUDY

ITC FIRST AID LTD



ONE of the first companies to benefit from the newly-extended role of The SQA Accreditation team is ITC First Aid Ltd, currently based in the North-East of England.

ITC, a well-established awarding body, is also in the midst of undertaking an ambitious expansion of its successful business into Scotland in a strategic three-year plan. As a result, the company said that its association with SQA Accreditation has been timely while proving to be extremely helpful and effective.

ITC First Aid Ltd is a limited company operating as an awarding body offering training and qualifications in first aid training for all sectors, with 90 per cent of its activity concentrated in the private sector.

Founded in 1996, it gained HSE approval to deliver First Aid at Work and proceeded to develop the delivery of first aid qualifications tailored to specific environments. It currently has about 150 centres and three colleges actively delivering various ITC qualifications.

To mark its tenth anniversary in 2006, ITC became a limited company and this led to it gaining accreditation to develop qualifications for the QCA in England.

With the move towards regulatory first aid at work qualifications, ITC – already approved by OfQual as an Awarding Organisation – approached SQA Accreditation early in 2009 with a view to becoming accredited in Scotland for its Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) qualifications.

ITC is complimentary about the SQA Accreditation approval process and timeline as it sought to pursue its expansion ideas. ITC's submission to be an approved awarding body in Scotland was made in June 2009, and approved the following month, on July 22, 2009. This meant that the ITC Emergency First Aid at Work qualification could be accredited on August 19, 2009, a real boost to its plans to expand into Scotland.

The Approval and Accreditation of ITC has had a positive impact on its activities and helped raise its profile in Scotland.

It has already responded to inquiries from centres and FE colleges in Scotland about the possibility of ITC Outdoor First Aid, Sports First Aid and Paediatric First Aid also becoming SQA accredited qualifications.

ITC's founder and Chief Verifier Ian Moore has been very impressed with his direct experience of SQA Accreditation so far – and he is looking forward to further involvement.

“Our dealings with SQA Accreditation have been great, straightforward and faultless,” says Ian.

“I can honestly say that we have had nothing but good guidance, effective and appropriate support, and lots of it.

“I have been very impressed. From the date of our application to the date of approval, we just zoomed through the process and that's down to the SQA Accreditation team's undoubted expertise and willingness to help – they are really on the ball.”

ITC, with four employees and 11,000 people qualifying from its courses in 2008, intends to open an office in the Inverness region in the next 9 –18 months.

“We are aiming to become a permanent part of the Scottish Qualification sector,” said Ian. “We are striving to develop a market place presence in Scotland and the accreditation for our Emergency First Aid at Work qualification was important.

“We are definitely planning to seek SQA accreditation of other qualifications such as Paediatric First Aid, Outdoor First Aid*, Sports First Aid.

“It's worth repeating that SQA Accreditation made the entire process as straightforward as possible. When we had questions, they didn't simply come back with answers, they came back with suggestions and good advice.

“We want to be a key provider in this sector, and with the continued support and help of SQA Accreditation I'm convinced we can achieve it.”

* The ITC Certificate in Outdoor First Aid was accredited on 30 June 2010.