

## Scottish Qualifications Authority (trading as SQA)

### Qualification Statement of Purpose

#### 600/3388/5 – GE27 68 Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Plant Operations (Construction) (QCF)

<b>Type of Qualification</b>	<b>QCF (Qualification and Credit Framework)</b>
<b>Credit</b>	<b>Minimum of 45 credits</b>
<b>Guided Learning Hours</b>	<b>Minimum of 150 hours up to a maximum of 311 hours depending on chosen pathway</b>

#### **Overview of this qualification:**

This level 2 qualification is a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) which is a work-based qualification that assesses the skills and knowledge you need to perform your job role effectively. This qualification is based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Plant Operations.

For each industry sector there is a standards-setting body made up of experienced practitioners who represent employers, professional bodies, trade unions, education and voluntary organisations.

Each standards setting-body is responsible for developing the NOS that define what employees (or potential employees) must be able to do, how well, and in what circumstances, to show that they are competent in their workplace in order to carry out a range of activities related to operating plant and equipment.

This qualification is available as part of an apprenticeship framework but can also be delivered outwith the apprenticeship. You would take the NVQ as a standalone qualification in order to progress within the industry where you only wish to be trained and assessed on a single category of machine whereas the apprenticeship requires training on multiple categories of machine. As a standalone qualification you can gain this qualification quicker than following the apprenticeship route thus allowing you to gain or retain employment within the industry. In addition the apprenticeship requires the completion of a 'knowledge based' Plant Operators qualification and English and Maths qualifications (if not already achieved) in addition to this NVQ.

There is a similar qualification available titled:

600/3386/1 (GE28 66) Level 2 NVQ Certificate in Plant Operations (Construction)

The difference between the two qualifications is based around the category of plant that that you are being assessed for. The Certificate qualification is for categories of plant that require less training time and operating skills than the categories contained with this Diploma Qualification - this is reflected by the number of credits and guided learning hours required for each qualification. Eg this qualification covers larger pieces of plant machinery that you would likely work on for longer periods of time compared to the Certificate qualification which covers the more common pieces of plant that you could be using more than one of, on a given day.

#### **Purpose of this qualification:**

The primary purpose of this qualification is to confirm your occupational competence as a Plant Operator. As a work-related, competency-based qualification it will provide on completion confirmation

to employers and industry managers and card schemes that you have the skills and knowledge needed to operate a specific piece of plant machinery that you have chosen to be assessed on to a nationally recognised standard.

NVQs are assessed by completing a portfolio of evidence which details what you've done at work through a variety of evidence such as observation from an assessor who watches you work and checks that you can do the work-related tasks, professional discussion, witness testimony and supporting documentary evidence. Because your assessor works alongside you they are able to confirm that you have met the requirements of this qualification and that you are therefore competent in your role.

Competence is displayed through your assessor observing you demonstrate that you carry out your normal work activities in a safe manner complying with all appropriate health and safety regulations and site procedures. The assessment process will ensure that you can prepare your selected machine correctly for the tasks that you have been directed to undertake and that you can interpret these instructions correctly. You will demonstrate that you can select the appropriate resources for the task and that you operate the machine correctly and safely with regards to yourself and all other site personnel who may be involved directly or indirectly by the operations you are undertaking. You will also demonstrate that you can complete these tasks within the given timescales and specifications.

### **What does this qualification cover?**

As this is a 'competence based qualification' this means you will be acquiring the knowledge and skills required through on-the-job experience.

This qualification has a range of pathways linked to typical job roles and plant equipment that you would encounter within the industry.

To achieve this qualification you need a minimum of 45 credits. You must complete **two mandatory units** which are:

- Conforming to General Health, Safety and Welfare in the Workplace
- Conforming to Productive Working Practices in the Workplace

**plus** the necessary **Preparing and Operating Unit** from any one of the following pathways, which depending on the chosen units, cover the skills, knowledge and understanding in one or more of a wide variety of plant operating activities including:

- Pathway 1 – Cranes and Specialist Lifting Plant
- Pathway 2 – Extracting Plant
- Pathway 3 – Excavating Plant
- Pathway 4 – Constructing and Forming Plant
- Pathway 5 – Transporting Loads Plant
- Pathway 6 – Laying and Distributing Plant
- Pathway 7 – Road / Rail Plant
- Pathway 8 – Attachments

The two mandatory units are the same in both the Level 2 NVQ Certificate and the Level 2 NVQ Diploma – the optional units differ in recognition of complexity of the different plant equipment and the amount of training that is required on the plant in the NVQ Diploma.

There are six additional generic units that fit across many construction qualifications as detailed below that you can choose to complete but these are not mandatory to the achievement of this NVQ:

- Preparing and Operating Specialised Powered Tools and Equipment in the Workplace
- Setting Out Secondary Dimensional Work Control in the Workplace
- Slings and Signalling the Movement of Loads Secondary Role in the Workplace
- Preparing and Carrying Out Plant Operations from a Barge in the Workplace
- Erecting and Dismantling Plant Cranes and Rigs in the Workplace
- Moving, Handling and Storing Resources in the Workplace

Please see the '*Learner Guidance and Portfolio*' document on the SQA Plant Operations webpage that gives you further information on the content and assessment of this qualification.

### **Who is this qualification for?**

This qualification can be taken by full-time / part-time employees or by school and college students with a work placement or part-time job that enables you to develop the appropriate skills in the workplace. There are no specific qualifications you must have achieved in order to start this qualification however your training provider would ensure that you have the potential and opportunity to gain this qualification successfully.

This qualification is mainly taken by individuals employed in, or seeking employment in:

- plant operations as a plant operator
- plant operations as a loader securer
- plant operations as a crane and specialist lifting plant operator
- a construction or civil engineering environment who need recognition of their competence in one or more of a wide variety of plant operations.

### **Age Range:**

This qualification is approved for 16 – 18 year olds, and 19 + learners.

### **What could this qualification lead to?**

As a construction plant operator, you could work with the machinery and equipment used on major civil engineering projects, construction and house building sites, roadworks, demolition sites, quarries and railways. You could use machines such as:

- 180 and 360 degree excavators
- earth moving bulldozers and dump trucks
- loading shovels
- mobile and crawler cranes
- tower cranes
- compactors used for levelling out work areas
- piling rigs
- concrete pumps.

This qualification can also lead to supervisory qualifications such as:  
600/3377/0 (GE1Y 79) Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Occupational Work Supervision (Construction)

and provide invaluable practical experience if you aspire to the more technical professions and will further broaden your skills set and increase your employability in the civil engineering industry.

## **Recognition**

This qualification is supported by the **Construction Plant-hire Association**

The UK plant hire industry is the best established and most professional in the world, and is worth over £4 billion to the UK economy. The Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) is the leading trade association for this sector in the UK and CPA Members supply 85% of hired plant to the construction industry.

CPA works closely with CITB, the Construction Industry Training Board and has been instrumental in the development of National Occupational Standards, training schemes and competence testing through the Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS)

The Association is governed by a Council of Members, who represent plant-hire companies of all types and sizes throughout the country.

## **Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS)**

This qualification also meets the requirements of the main industry recognised operators' competence card - the Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS). The CPCS is the largest and most highly recognised skills card scheme for the plant sector of the construction industry. Membership of the Scheme is voluntary, but is mandatory on many construction sites and other work environments.

For further information on this qualification please contact SQA via one of the following routes:

SQA Website	<a href="http://www.sqa.org.uk">www.sqa.org.uk</a>
Telephone	0345 279 1000
Email Enquiries	customer@sqa.org.uk