

6th December 2019

Introduction of new requirements to Training and Accreditation 2020

On 6th April 2017, new regulations came into force in England, the Street Works (Qualifications of Operatives and Supervisors) (England) Regulations 2016.

Following the regulation changes by the DFT, HAUC (UK) will be launching updates to the current NRSWA training and assessment modules on March 2nd, 2020 aimed at significantly improving the compliance standards of Operatives and Supervisors within the utilities industry.

HAUC (UK) is making these changes to ensure all materials being used in the training and assessment of Operatives and Supervisors as required under NRSWA, have been brought up to date with the Codes of Practice and industry standards.

These changes will ensure anyone working within all four Administrations, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, has the same standard of training and assessment required for certification.

The depth of knowledge required to fulfil the new assessment criteria will be increased under these changes. Historically too many signing, lighting and guarding inadequacies have been recorded along with numerous reinstatement defects. This has impacted significantly on the limited budgets available for maintaining a safe and trafficable street.

Awarding Organisations for the updated qualifications are currently CABWI, City and Guilds, Lantra and SQA. There will be a requirement for all examination qualifications to be completed via computer multiple choice questioning. There will be a 12-month transition period for the computer multiple choice questioning set at 1st March 2021. After this date paper-based questioning will no longer be accepted.

HAUC (UK) Joint Chairs from Streetworks.org and the Joint Authorities Group (JAG(UK)) are fully supportive of the above changes. HAUC(UK) believes these will ensure an overall improvement in the standards for a trained and competent workforce, working within utilities infrastructure in the UK as a whole.

Although difficult to quote exact figures, considerable amounts of revenue for businesses are lost each year from fines imposed by local authorities for SLG issues and through poor reinstatement quality requiring further site visits, permit costs and rectification work to bring up to standard.

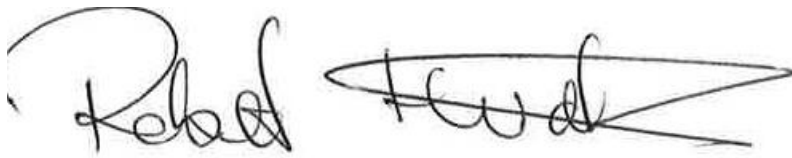
It is HAUC(UK)'s opinion that the correct training and accreditation of the workforce completing these works is vital to improving overall compliance and to significantly reduce long term costs for all businesses and local authorities.

If you have any queries, suggestions or concerns regarding the above please feel free to contact us.

Training and Accreditation Joint Chairs:



Mark Playforth
Head of HSEQT (UK)
KN Circet
Streetworks.Org



Robert Hudleston
Highways Interface Manager
Network Rail
Joint Authorities Group