

# **FIA** QS and qualification developments

2010 SUMMER SEMINAR  
AND NETWORKING EVENT



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# Training Provider Approval

- ✓ FIA approval = ‘seal of quality’
- ✓ should ensure good training for candidates
- ✓ not just pay-up and get approved
  - *providers must have appropriate procedures*
  - *trainees can feedback on provider*
  - *trainers must be certified by the FIA*

# Certified Trainers

## ❓ Problem?

- *old joke – no good at doing the job – train others instead!*
- *some trainers had very little fibre optics knowledge*
- *some are knowledgeable but have large gaps*
- *poor trainers dent confidence in the industry*

## ✓ Solution

- certified trainers
- examined to find gaps in fibre-optics knowledge
- already most tested have failed first time
- work on weaknesses
- improve their knowledge
- Pass exam to become FIA Certified Trainers

# Qualification Scheme

- ⇒ Aimed at installers & other professionals working in fibre optics & communications cabling
  - Provides recognition of achievement
  - Candidates get FIA awards such as
    - Certified Cabling Technician (CCT)
    - Certified Measurement Specialist (CMS)
  - At levels I, II, III, IV and ultimately level V
    - I is base level
    - II is Technician level
    - III is Specialist level
    - IV is Engineer level
    - V is the ultimate Certified Fibre Expert (CFE) level
  - System is flexible & inclusive
  - Low cost! – an FIA aim is to promote professionalism

# Qualifications are Changing

- New QCF – Qualifications Credit Framework
- replaces the NQF
- each qualification has a level and a credit value
- levels are as before (next slide)
- one credit = 10 hours of notional learning
- small units can be built into a larger qualifications
- units from different providers & awarding bodies
- Unique Learner Number ULN on central database
- more flexibility - but ‘rules of combination’

# Qualification Levels

❖ *9 levels broadly equivalent to:*

Level 8 – Doctoral

Level 7 – Masters degree

Level 6 – Bachelors degree

Level 5 – HND or Diplomas of Higher Education

Level 4 – Certificate of Higher Education

Level 3 – ‘A’ levels

Level 2 – ‘GCSE’ at grades A\*-C

Level 1 – ‘GCSE’ at grades D-G

Entry level – very basic

# New Qualification Definitions

- 3 types defined:

*1 - 12 credits*

**Award**

*13 – 36 credits*

**Certificate**

*37+ credits*

**Diploma**

# Scotland?

- Scotland is different...
- have the SCQF
  - 12 levels
  - Level descriptors see [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk)
  - one credit point = 10 hours of learning
- England, Wales (in CQFW) & NI will use QCF
- QCF and SCQF looking at “cross framework articulation”
- European countries moving to a form of QF
- EQF aims to relate all national qualifications from different European countries...

# City & Guilds Qualifications

- Migration of qualifications onto QCF underway
  - 3666 Certificate in Communications Cabling, becomes
  - 3667-02 Award in Communications Cabling
  - *likely to be 8 or 9 credits*
  - 3663 Diploma in Designing & Planning Communications Networks, becomes
  - 3667-03 Certificate in ...
  - *likely to be around 20 credits*
- *Work is well underway and new qualifications will be available very soon*
  - *the FIA has assisted City & Guilds with transition work and qualification updates.*

# City & Guilds centres

- Migration for centres
  - automatic for the same level & status qualifications
  - exception is any centres with sanctions
- Other awarding bodies?
  - working on migration
  - but mostly not as advanced as City & Guilds

# Fibre-optics Diploma

- Requires 37+ credits in appropriate fibre-optics qualifications registered on the QCF
  - 370+ hours of study
  - not necessarily 370 glh
- Diploma could require new qualification units
  - Advanced Testing Awards?
  - Blown Fibre Installation Award?
  - other?
- FIA will work with City & Guilds and others to develop a Fibre Optics &/or Comms Cabling Diploma

# Training & Qualifications

- FIA have 2 council members
  - Lee Funnell - nominally responsible for qualifications
  - John Colton - nominally responsible for training issues
  - work together as appropriate and share responsibilities
  - avoids ‘vested interest’ problems
- Always happy to help members and fellow training providers – just ask.

You have been watching...

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***Thanks for your  
attention!***

