

MPQC Level 2 Diploma in Field and Laboratory Geotechnical Activities							
Ofqual Reference Number:	610/3074/0				Regulation Start Date:	Regulation End Date:	Certification End Date:
Qualification Level: 2	EQF Level: 3	Credits: 47	GLH: 379	TQT: 470	01/08/2023	31/07/2028	31/07/2030
Qualification Purpose:	Primary Purpose - Confirm competence in an occupational role to the standards required Additional Purpose – To aid selection into a specific job role						
Applicable National Occupational Standard(s):	Units within the qualification are based on Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities NOS.						
Qualification Summary:	This qualification is specifically designed for those individuals involved in a range of field and laboratory geotechnical testing and activities. The qualification is accompanied by a set of Directives developed by the Awarding Organisation to provide more details and additional requirements to be included in some applications.						
Qualification Structure:	The qualification is made up of five pathways that are relevant to different Field and Laboratory Geotechnical job roles. Candidates must achieve the mandatory units plus a minimum of one optional unit in their chosen pathway to be awarded the qualification. Multiple pathways may be completed, but there must be evidence to clearly cover all criteria within each pathway.						
Pre-Entry Requirements:	None						
Exemptions and RPL:	Where a previously completed unit has exactly the same reference number and the context of the activity is appropriate an exemption may be claimed following approval from the AO. RPL could be claimed where a unit may have been updated to show a different reference number, but the Candidate can demonstrate their competence is still current, relevant, reliable and sufficient. Refer to MP Awards Exemption and RPL Policy PP0033 for more details.						
Language of Assessment:	English						
Progression Route:	Candidates may undertake additional Pathways as progression to a multi-skilled operative or undertake MPQC regulated qualifications						

Pathways (At least one must be completed)							
Pathway 1 – Geotechnical Laboratory Testing Technician							
Mandatory Units – candidates must achieve ALL units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Follow Health and Safety Procedures for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	M/650/7871	FLGA01	35	
Maintain Effective and Efficient Working Relationships for Geotechnical Activities	M	3	4	L/650/9517	FLGA02	25	
Use Information Recording Systems for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	D/650/9521	FLGA03	48	
Prepare for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	7	H/650/9523	FLGA04	58	
Carry Out Geotechnical Laboratory Testing Activities	M	2	22	K/650/9525	FLGA05	176	
Optional Units – candidates must achieve at least ONE units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Carry Out Sampling Operations for Geotechnical Activities	O	2	7	A/650/9520	FLGA10	55	
Carry Out Routine Maintenance, Cleaning and Checking of Geotechnical Equipment	O	2	5	F/650/9522	FLGA11	40	
Maintain Stocks Of Resources, Equipment And Consumables for Use in Geotechnical Activities	O	2	4	L/650/9526	FLGA12	37	

Pathway 2 – Geotechnical Field Testing Technician							
Mandatory Units – candidates must achieve ALL units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Follow Health and Safety Procedures for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	M/650/7871	FLGA01	35	
Maintain Effective and Efficient Working Relationships for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	4	L/650/9517	FLGA02	25	
Use Information Recording Systems for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	D/650/9521	FLGA03	48	
Prepare for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	7	H/650/9523	FLGA04	58	
Carry Out Geotechnical Field Testing Activities	M	2	22	R/650/9519	FLGA06	176	
Optional Units – candidates must achieve at least ONE units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Carry Out Sampling Operations for Geotechnical Activities	O	2	7	A/650/9520	FLGA10	55	
Carry Out Routine Maintenance, Cleaning and Checking of Geotechnical Equipment	O	2	5	F/650/9522	FLGA11	40	
Maintain Stocks Of Resources, Equipment And Consumables for Use in Geotechnical Activities	O	2	4	L/650/9526	FLGA12	37	

Pathway 3 – Cone Penetration Testing (CPT) Technician							
Mandatory Units – candidates must achieve ALL units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Follow Health and Safety Procedures for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	M/650/7871	FLGA01	35	
Maintain Effective and Efficient Working Relationships for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	4	L/650/9517	FLGA02	25	
Use Information Recording Systems for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	D/650/9521	FLGA03	48	
Prepare for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	7	H/650/9523	FLGA04	58	
Carry Out Cone Penetration Testing (CPT) Activities	M	2	22	K/650/9516	FLGA07	176	
Optional Units – candidates must achieve at least ONE units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Carry Out Sampling Operations for Geotechnical Activities	O	2	7	A/650/9520	FLGA10	55	
Carry Out Routine Maintenance, Cleaning and Checking of Geotechnical Equipment	O	2	5	F/650/9522	FLGA11	40	
Maintain Stocks Of Resources, Equipment And Consumables for Use in Geotechnical Activities	O	2	4	L/650/9526	FLGA12	37	

Pathway 4 – Construction Materials Testing Technician							
Mandatory Units – candidates must achieve ALL units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Follow Health and Safety Procedures for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	M/650/7871	FLGA01	35	
Maintain Effective and Efficient Working Relationships for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	4	L/650/9517	FLGA02	25	
Use Information Recording Systems for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	D/650/9521	FLGA03	48	
Prepare for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	7	H/650/9523	FLGA04	58	
Carry Out Construction Materials Testing Activities	M	2	22	M/650/9518	FLGA08	176	
Optional Units – candidates must achieve at least ONE units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Carry Out Sampling Operations for Geotechnical Activities	O	2	7	A/650/9520	FLGA10	55	
Carry Out Routine Maintenance, Cleaning and Checking of Geotechnical Equipment	O	2	5	F/650/9522	FLGA11	40	
Maintain Stocks Of Resources, Equipment And Consumables for Use in Geotechnical Activities	O	2	4	L/650/9526	FLGA12	37	

Pathway 5 – Geotechnical Instrumentation and Monitoring Technician							
Mandatory Units – candidates must achieve ALL units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Follow Health and Safety Procedures for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	M/650/7871	FLGA01	35	
Maintain Effective and Efficient Working Relationships for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	4	L/650/9517	FLGA02	25	
Use Information Recording Systems for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	5	D/650/9521	FLGA03	48	
Prepare for Geotechnical Activities	M	2	7	H/650/9523	FLGA04	58	
Carry Out Geotechnical Instrumentation and Monitoring (I&M) Activities	M	2	22	J/650/9524	FLGA09	176	
Optional Units – candidates must achieve at least ONE units							
Unit Title	Unit Status	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	GLH	RPL Units
Carry Out Routine Maintenance, Cleaning and Checking of Geotechnical Equipment	O	2	5	F/650/9522	FLGA11	40	
Maintain Stocks Of Resources, Equipment And Consumables for Use in Geotechnical Activities	O	2	4	L/650/9526	FLGA12	37	

Centre Staff Requirements:**Assessors and Internal Verifiers must:**

1. Be **registered** and recognised **by an Approved Centre, registered and approved by MP Awards**.
2. Have a minimum of 5 years' experience in the Industry (evidenced by a CV and verified witness testimonies) and show evidence of CPD
3. Show evidence of experience within field and laboratory geotechnical activities
4. Hold, or are working towards the appropriate qualification as listed in the table below:

Assessor	Internal Verifier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment, or • Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement, or • SQA Accredited L&D 9DI Assess Workplace Competence Using Direct and Indirect Methods (SCQF Level 8), or • A1 Assess Learners Using a Range of Methods*, or • D32 and D33 Assess Learner Performance Using Differing Sources of Evidence*. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process and Practice, or • Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Process and Practice, or • SQA Accredited L&D 11 Internally Monitor and Maintain the Quality of Workplace Assessment (SCQF Level 8), or • V1 Conduct Internal Verification of the Assessment Process*, or • D34 Internally Verify the Assessment Process*.

*Holders of A1, D32 or D33 must:

- Assess to the revised National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Assessment;
- Show evidence of CPD to the revised NOS;
- Show evidence of having assessed within the last 18 months;

*Holders of V1 or D34 must:

- Verify to the revised National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Internal Verification;
- Show evidence of CPD to the revised NOS;
- Show evidence of having internally verified within the last 18 months.

Assessment Methods:

Must be assessed and quality assured in accordance with the Minerals Matter Assessment Strategy and MP Awards evidence requirements.

For this qualification all learning outcomes must be assessed using methods appropriate to the assessment of competence-based qualifications. There must be valid, authentic and sufficient evidence for all the assessment criteria. There is no requirement for each unit to be assessed separately. Indeed, Assessors are encouraged to adopt a holistic approach but it is essential that evidence for the assessment criteria in each unit is also identified individually.

The primary source of performance evidence will be from observation in the workplace and examining products of work, candidate testimony and questioning/discussions, supported by other forms of evidence such as witness testimonies.

Simulation is generally not allowed, exceptions to this will be indicated in the appropriate Assessment Strategy/ies, these must be agreed prior to use with the External Verifier.

Minimum Performance Evidence Requirements:

It is expected that this qualification will be delivered over a sufficient period of time to enable the demonstration of **repeatable** performance and allow for quality assurance to be undertaken. This 'period of time' could vary dependent on the candidate's ability to generate suitable and sufficient evidence.

MP Awards recommends a minimum timeframe for this qualification of **10 weeks**. This should be measured from the date of candidate registration.

The mandatory minimum timeframe for this qualification is **4 weeks** measured from the first assessment judgement to when the achievement record is signed off and must include a minimum of 2 observations on different dates.

Assessing Knowledge and Understanding:

For this qualification all learning outcomes must be assessed using methods appropriate to the assessment of workplace knowledge. There must be valid, authentic and sufficient evidence for all of the assessment criteria. The examples in the list are not exhaustive.

Holistic approach is encouraged. Verbal/written questioning (recorded); Professional interview (recorded); Learner statements

Assessment System:

Whilst Approved Centres are free to develop their own assessment record system; MP Awards has developed a ready-made system for Centres to use which is available at no cost. However, Centres are advised to check with MP Awards when devising their own assessment system to ensure it meets the standards in full.

Endorsements: The categories and endorsements in the table below are provided to enable the selection of the correct type of equipment and working activity that will be assessed to gain the qualification, these details will show on the reverse of the certificate issued. If more than one category or endorsement is selected then clear evidence relating to each of them must be provided to meet the requirements of the qualification.

Endorsements

Each Pathway has specific endorsements available and candidates should choose **THREE** endorsements in relation to the geotechnical activity being undertaken.

Pathway 1 Endorsements for Unit FLGA05

water content	atterberg limit	partial size distribution	sedimentation	shear box	quick undrained triaxial
density	laboratory shear vane	standard compaction (2.5kg rammer)	heavy compaction (4.5kg rammer)	saturated moisture content	point load
vibrating rammer compaction	moisture condition value (MCV)	california bearing ratio (Laboratory CBR)	oedometer	unconfined compressive strength (UCS)	other

Pathway 2 Endorsements for Unit FLGA06

california bearing ratio (Laboratory CBR)	dynamic cone penetration (DCP)	plate load/bearing	in-situ density – sand replacement	in-situ density – water replacement	in-situ density – core cutter
nuclear density gauge	non-nuclear density gauge	hand shear vane	lightweight deflectometer (LWD)	natural gamma	caliper
resistivity	induction	P&S logger	acoustic/sonic televiewer	nuclear/magnetic resonance	formation density
fluid (temperature/ conductivity/flow)	ground penetrating radar	micro-gravity	electromagnetic resistivity	seismic	other

Pathway 3 Endorsements for Unit FLGA07

friction cone	piezocone	mechanical cone	seismic cone	pressuremeter cone	enviro-cone
mag-cone	dissipation test	other			

Pathway 4 Endorsements for Unit FLGA08					
water content	concrete slump	asphalt analysis	density	compaction	moisture condition value
unconfined compressive strength	los angeles coefficient	aggregate grading	magnesium sulphate soundness	frost heave	max/min density
cube/core compressive strength	flakiness	laboratory CBR	hand shear vane	other	
Pathway 5 Endorsements for Unit FLGA09					
standpipe piezometer	observation well	ground gas monitoring well	vapour monitoring well	vibrating wire piezometer	inclinometer
extensometer (rod/magnetic/in-place)	horizontal profile gauge	settlement gauge	other		
Each endorsement relates to the tests/activities carried out in the unit specified in assessment criterion 1.12.					
Fee Structure Full Qualification and Unit registration fees which are inclusive of certification fees can be found on the approved price list, details are available on the website or by contacting MP Awards on 0115 972 6121					
Review of Charges: Fees are reviewed annually and any changes notified to Approved Centres in October for implementation in January					