

MPQC Level 3 Diploma in Shotfiring for the Extractive and Minerals Processing Industries							
<b>Ofqual Reference Number</b>	603/1029/7				<b>Accreditation Start Date:</b>	<b>Accreditation End Date:</b>	<b>Certification End Date:</b>
<b>Qualification Level: 3</b>	<b>EQF Level: 4</b>	<b>Credits: 37</b>	<b>GLH: 303</b>	<b>TQT: 372</b>	01/04/2017	31/12/2026	31/12/2029
<b>Qualification Purpose:</b>	Primary Purpose - Confirm competence in an occupational role to the standards required Additional Purpose – To aid selection into a specific job role						
<b>Applicable National Occupational Standard(s):</b>	Explosive Substances and Articles Please see the NOS database for details <a href="https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/">https://www.ukstandards.org.uk/</a>						
<b>Qualification Summary:</b>	This qualification is designed for those individuals who need to show they have the skills, knowledge and understanding to demonstrate competence for Shotfiring Operations, primarily in quarrying						
<b>Qualification Structure:</b>	Candidates must complete the six mandatory units in order to achieve the qualification. There is one Additional Unit. Additional units are not compulsory; however, Learners may choose to do one or more of these units where they are offered to gain additional credits. Additional units will be recorded on the certificate but will not be counted towards the achievement of the qualification.						
<b>Pre-Entry Requirements:</b>	None						
<b>Exemptions:</b>	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 for more details						
<b>Language of Assessment:</b>	English						

<b>Progression Route:</b>	MPQC Level 5 Certificate in Blast Design for the Extractive and Minerals Processing Industries MPQC Level 5 Diploma in Shotfiring Supervision for the Extractive and Minerals Processing Industries						
<b>Mandatory Units – Candidate <u>MUST</u> achieve all units</b>							
Unit Title	Mandatory Unit (M)	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	Guided Learning Hours	RPL
Contributing to Maintaining Health, Safety and Environmental Practices in the Blasting Environment	M	3	3	T/615/4606	BL602	28	
Contributing to an Efficient and Effective Drilling or Blasting Environment	M	2	4	F/615/4611	BL608	35	
Receiving and Handling Explosive Materials On-Site*	M	2	2	F/615/4608	BL604	12	
Charging Blast Holes to Specification*	M	3	9	J/615/4609	BL605	85	
Blasting to Specification*	M	3	13	A/615/4610	BL606	118	
Carrying out Inspections for Misfires*	M	5	6	M/615/4619	BL618	25	

<b>Additional Units – Candidates <u>MAY</u> complete one or more of the units</b>							
Unit Title	Optional Unit (A)	Level	Credits	Ofqual Reference	MP Awards Reference	Guided Learning	RPL

						<b>Hours</b>	
Receiving, Storing and Issuing Explosive Materials	A	2	3	A/615/4607	BL603	25	

**Centre Staff Requirements:**

**Assessors** and **Internal Verifiers** must:

1. Be **registered** and recognised **by an Approved Centre, registered and approved by MP Awards.**
2. Hold, or are working towards the appropriate qualification as listed in the table below:

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

\*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 examining products of work produced by the Candidate supported by observation in the workplace, 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.**

**Misfires**

It is recognised that when assessing unit BL618 a misfire is highly unlikely to be observed. Simulating misfires would introduce health and safety risks and be difficult to achieve realistically. Evidence is also required of both types of misfires, and a range of misfire situations.

Therefore, this unit must be completed using diverse evidence, for example

1. evidence from an observed misfire
2. evidence from a misfire during the assessment period but not observed supported by documentary evidence, third party testimony and questions
3. historical evidence of previous misfires supported by documentation produced at the time, but updated as necessary to meet current guidance, plus third party testimony and questioning
4. scenarios covering each of seven different misfire situations specified in current industry guidance not covered by evidence from points 1-4; the scenarios to be set by the Awarding Organisation and found in the Qualification Directives document
5. a combination of the above.

In all cases the performance evidence of performance must be supported by detailed recorded evidence of knowledge and understanding. This can come from a combination of knowledge evidence deduced by the assessor from the examples used above, other “walkthrough” scenarios, personal statements, professional discussions and in-depth questioning etc. sufficient to satisfy the assessor that the learner has a detailed understanding of how to deal with misfires in all seven situations specified in Explosives Guidance Note 1 and recognised by the Health and Safety Executive.

**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); Candidate 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:**

Full Qualification and unit credits (marked \*) to be endorsed by blasting environment **AND** blasting type:

		Environment		
		Extractives	Tunnelling	Mining
Endorsement	Standard Blasting			
	Buffer Blasting			
	Small Diameter (less than 38mm)			

Multiple endorsements are permitted, provided the Candidate provides sufficient evidence to confirm competence in each endorsement situation.

**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