



**ADVANCED SCAFFOLDER – MQF/EQF LEVEL 4
INFORMATION HANDBOOK**

ON

**The process of validation of informal and non-
formal learning for Advanced Scaffolders**

The Assessment Board:

The Assessment Board is appointed by the Minister responsible for Jobsplus by means of Article 26 of the Employment and Training Services Act 2018 to ascertain proficiency or competency in a particular occupation.

This handbook describes the competences that candidates need to possess before sitting for the Advanced Scaffolder validation process. Successful candidates acquire an *Award as Advanced Scaffolder* Certificate pegged at Level 4 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and also the European Qualifications Framework and which is endorsed by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA).

Eligibility:

Candidates who are interested in acquiring the *Award as Advanced Scaffolder* can apply for their knowledge, skills and competences to be assessed, recognised and validated if they possess the necessary competences and skills as defined in this handbook.

The prospective candidate must have **3 years' experience** in the respective field. This is in line with the S.L. 607.02 of 2012 which regulates the Validation of Informal and Non-formal Learning process. Prior to the assessment candidates need to present an official Employment History to confirm the years of experience to the Assessment Board.

The Assessment Board is free to contact the Institution and/or referee at will in order to confirm experiences and training claimed by the candidate.

Initial Assessment Plan:

The Assessment Board will conduct an induction session for candidates interested in acquiring the *Award as Advanced Scaffolder* and review the portfolio and the experience presented to plan the appropriate assessments according to the individual's experience and needs. During the induction session, the candidate is also instructed on how to collect evidence used as a proof of their practical experience.

Evidence sources may include:

- Work Activity
- Witness Testimony
- Health & Safety Documents/ Reports/ Procedures

- Photographic Evidence / Risk Assessments / Instructions
- Work-based confirmation of evidence not observed by assessor.

Assessment Criteria:

The Assessment Criteria for the validation process are based on the National Occupational Standards. Following is an abstract of the list of competences that the candidate must possess prior to applying for the validation process. For further information you can download the National Occupational Standards from the following link: <https://qualifications.mfhea.gov.mt/#/more-database/a31c6a68-25f2-42b0-a375-c7686456a343>

SCF401: Apply Occupational Health and Safety during Work-Practices

The candidate must have the necessary knowledge and skills to supervise and ensure that:

1. Safe working practices to prevent hazards and to ensure the safety of workers and members of the public are being carried out.
2. Safe working practices using appropriate equipment and materials to prevent damages to work areas and injuries to himself and 3rd parties are being carried out.
3. Safety barriers around a work environment hazard to protect workers and members of the public are set up.
4. Appropriate protective clothing and safety equipment and know the whereabouts of first- aid equipment is used.
5. Store materials hazardous to health are used and handled in a safe manner.
6. Risk assessment to cover the job assigned and the working area is carried out.
7. Temporary or fixed electrical switch gear, isolating valves as instructed in the health and safety procedures are located and switched off.
8. There is collaboration with construction team members.
9. The factors affecting safety of scaffold structures are stated.
10. There is a list of all the types of scaffold inspection checklists.
11. The main content should form the scaffold register (inspection authority or company document).
12. Health and safety precautions being applied on day-to-day bases and ensure that colleagues onsite are in good health.
13. All measures to keep adequate working distance from overhead electrical cables are taken.

SCF402: Identify systems, equipment and components

The candidate must have the necessary knowledge and skills to supervise and ensure that:

1. There is a distinction between types of scaffolding and access equipment based on their characteristics and classification.
2. The criteria for the selection of scaffold is stated.
3. The tools, accessories and equipment used for scaffold erection and dismantling are stated.

4. The characteristics and material requirements for Frame Scaffold, Birdcage scaffold, tower scaffold, modular scaffold, hanging scaffold, special scaffold and cantilever scaffold are identified and explained.
5. Records of the quantity of materials used by project are kept.
6. Stores and construction sites facilities are organized.
7. Functional checks on plant and equipment including routine checks for accuracy on tools and instruments are organized and performed.
8. A job is broken down into different phases and that the estimated duration and production of hours required is established.
9. There is coordination with others to ensure project plans consider site, roads, neighbours and neighbourhood concerns and environmental legislation.

SCF403: Reading of drawings and calculations

The candidate must have the necessary knowledge and skills to supervise and ensure that:

1. Plans and specifications to select scaffold fittings and elements are read and interpreted.
2. Plans to establish important building datum grids and levels are read and interpreted.
3. The quantities of scaffold fittings required to meet work schedules are calculated.
4. Linear measurements of diagonals, diameters and right-angle triangles in 2D and 3D structures are calculated.
5. Scaffold 'standards' (posts) correctly spaced as indicated in drawings are set out.
6. Scaffold 'standards' on pitch circle diameter around circular structures are set out.
7. There is consultation and preparation with the scaffold engineer / architect in charge the scaffold designs where applicable.

SCF404: Setting Out, Erecting and Dismantling Scaffolds and Access Equipment

The candidate must have the necessary knowledge and skills to supervise and ensure that:

1. Plant, tools and equipment according to manufacturer recommendations and workplace practices are cleaned, checked and stored.
2. Teams to dispose unwanted materials according to project environmental policy and keep areas cleared from unwanted materials are organized and lead.
3. Records and follow workplace procedures regarding scaffold inspections and for reported damaged items, structural elements' integrity and other temporary changes carried out are kept.
4. Frame scaffolds, birdcage scaffolds, tower scaffolds, modular scaffolds and hanging scaffolds are set out, constructed and dismantled.
5. Independent tied scaffolds and set up, constructed and dismantled.
6. Complex information in unfamiliar and unpredictable context to colleagues and first line supervisors using the correct scaffold technical terms is communicated.
7. There is coordination and cooperation with colleagues, self-employed sub-contractors and all other construction site workers.
8. There is agreed responsibility for completing given scaffold erecting and dismantling tasks and interact with the immediate environment to solve technical and supervision issues at one's own initiative is taken.

9. Progress of material and labour are programmed and maintained.
10. Review processes are planned and organized.
11. There is contribution to improve work activities.
12. Safety requirements, equipment and training requirements ahead of production are planned.
13. The quality of work and advice on the necessary adjustments to the work procedures and setting out of work to achieve the required accuracy is supervised.
14. Production priorities and delegate with accurate instructions are set.
15. Others are coached to maintain and improve their commitment and performance.
16. The right logical approach to problem solving is taken.
17. The roles and responsibilities of construction and civil engineering teams are recognized.
18. Interpersonal relationship to understand and develop others and to avoid conflict are maintained.
19. Inspections of the scaffolding's integrity and report any changes to scaffolding immediately to superiors are done periodically.
20. The scaffolder is aware of the intended use of the scaffold prior to erection, and that the scaffold is used for its intended purposes.

Mode of Assessment:

A candidate will be assessed on all the above listed competences. Assessment will be made up from different components, namely:

A. Practical Work

During the practical test a candidate will be asked to perform a number of tasks in line with the assessment criteria. Assessment will be held in a real working environment such as the candidate's workplace. Information on the assessment venue will be provided by Jobsplus prior to the assessment. Multiple sessions might need to be scheduled.

B. Knowledge and Understanding

Candidates will be assessed on knowledge and understanding orally during an interview and in writing through a written test paper.

C. Interview to verify product evidence and supplementary evidence

During the interview the Board will continue assessing candidates in relation to their knowledge, skills and competences in the respective occupation. Candidates are encouraged to present photographic evidence, workbooks or logbooks to illustrate their work.

To successfully pass from the assessment, candidates need to proof their competences in all enlisted criteria as defined in the National Occupational Standards. Following assessment candidates will receive a formal result slip issued by Jobsplus in collaboration with MFHEA. The

result slip will indicate whether the candidate has obtained a Pass or a Fail in all criteria. Nonetheless persons who fail any of these criteria will have the possibility to sit for a re-sit.

Resits:

Candidates who do not pass from any of the enlisted criteria will be guided for further development in the failed criterion/criteria.

The failed criterion/criteria will be communicated in the result slip issued by Jobsplus. Date, time and venue of re-sit would be communicated to the candidate by Jobsplus. The candidate will be guided by the Assessment Board with respect to the areas for improvement prior to the re-sit.

Appeals:

Candidates who fail the assessment and wish to contest the decision taken by the Assessment Board can submit a formal request for further feedback to Jobsplus. An appeal can be lodged within 10 working days from the result slip issued by Jobsplus. In the eventuality that the candidate's final result is changed following the appeal, a new result will supersede the previous one.