



**PRESS MACHINE ASSISTANT – MQF/EQF LEVEL 1
INFORMATION HANDBOOK**

ON

**The process of validation of informal and non-formal
learning for Press Machine Assistants**

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 Press Machine Assistant validation process. Successful candidates acquire an *Award as Press Machine Assistant* pegged at Level 1 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and 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 Press Machine Assistant* 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 S.L. 327.432 of 2012 which regulates the Validation of Informal and Non-formal Learning. The Assessment Board may request a reference letter to confirm the years of experience claimed by the candidate and reserves the right to contact the Institution and/or referee at will.

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 in Press Machine Assistant* 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://ncfhe.gov.mt/en/services/Documents/Press%20Machine%20Assistant%20-%20MQF%20Level%201.pdf>

PMA 101: IMPROVE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE AT WORK WITH GUIDANCE

1. Use feedback from colleagues and customers to improve in your work performance
2. Review prepared personal development plans from supervisor
3. Discuss with immediate superior/supervisor to improve personal development at work

PMA 102: CONTRIBUTE TO MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT IN WORKING ORDER

1. Assist in maintaining equipment to ensure machine is in working order
2. Make note of any faults that may occur in the equipment while working
3. Report any components that may need replacing, whether they are machine parts or consumables, depending on the job's responsibilities

PMA 103: POSSESS FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE ON PRINTING MATERIALS; PRE-PRESS AND POSTPRESS PROCESSES

1. Communicate basic information on the variety of modern communication technologies
2. Communicate basic information on different printing substrates
3. Communicate basic information on the processes involved in the printing industry

PMA 104: POSSESS BASIC KNOWLEDGE ON PRINTING PLATES AND INKS

1. Handle the proper use of inks, solvents and varnishes
2. Store inks, solvents and varnishes

PMA 105: PREPARE MACHINES FOR OFFSET LITHOGRAPHY PRINTING

1. Assist to set the feeder
2. To transport and deliver sections of the press
3. To fit or assist to fit the plates
4. To identify and report mechanical faults

PMA 106: ASSIST IN THE OPERATION OF OFFSET LITHOGRAPHY MACHINES

1. To assist in the operation of a sheet-fed offset lithographic printing machine

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

Practical work could be assessed by a task created to simulate the work environment. During the practical test a candidate will be asked to perform a number of tasks in line with the assessment criteria. Assessment can either be held in a simulated workshop or on site. 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/ or 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 areas of further development may include:

- Health & Safety Course (Safety Card)
- MCAST / Jobsplus Training Programmes
- On-Site Training
- Evidence of Training

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.