



**ASSISTANT PLASTERER – MQF/EQF LEVEL 2
INFORMATION HANDBOOK**

ON

**The process of validation of informal and non-
formal learning for Assistant Plasterers**

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 Assistant Plasterer validation process. Successful candidates acquire an *Award as Assistant Plasterer* pegged at Level 2 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and also the European Qualifications Framework and which is endorsed by the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE).

Eligibility:

Candidates who are interested in acquiring the *Award as Assistant Plasterer* 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 L.N. 295 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. Candidates applying for the Skill Card through the Building Industry Consultative Council (BICC) are exempt from submitting the Employment History.

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 Assistant Plasterer*, 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: <http://ncfhe.gov.mt/en/services/Documents/VINFL/NOS%20-%20Building%20and%20Construction/Plasterer%20MQF%202.pdf>.

APL 201 Apply Occupational Health and Safety and Working Practices

1. Carry out safe working practices to prevent hazards and to ensure the safety of workers and members of the public.
2. Carry out safe working practices using appropriate equipment and materials to prevent damages to work areas.
3. Carry out the safe erection, use and dismantling of simple scaffold platforms less than 2m high.
4. Set up safety barriers around a work environment hazard to protect workers and members of the public.
5. Use protective clothing and safety equipment to accomplish tasks.
6. Use and store materials hazardous to health in a safe manner.

APL 202 Identify systems, equipment and components

1. Identify and store materials according to storage requirements.
2. Check materials and consumables for expire date.
3. Check equipment for the last approved certification date.
4. Assemble and use equipment safely.
5. Prepare background surfaces to given specifications.

APL 203 Calculating, positioning and drawing

1. Calculate the quantity and cost of materials needed from actual measurements of square and rectangular rooms.
2. Follow instruction detailed on working drawings.

APL 204 Identifying and applying systems, equipment and components

1. Measure the deviation range of finished plaster using a 1.8m straight edge.
2. Assist plasterers to set datum lines.
3. Prepare brick, stone or concrete surfaces to receive plastering coats.
4. Mix within the specified time and specified portions plastering material.

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 NCFHE. 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 will 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.