

Specification for EMPI Level 2 EPA Mineral Processing Mobile & Static Plant Operator (ST0144)

Objective

The End Point Assessment is focused on the competence of the apprentice in the occupational role as evidenced by their ability to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and behaviours as set out in the Apprenticeship Standard ST0144. This qualification provides confirmation that the apprentice is competent to work unsupervised in the role.

This EPA qualification allows the apprentice to gain Apprenticeship Standard 'Mineral Processing Mobile & Static Plant Operator (ST0144). Successfully achieving this standard prepares apprentices to progress to a qualification in another subject area, as it contains a mandated VQ with common units found in a number of other sector specific VQs. In addition, successfully achieving this standard enables apprentices to meet relevant programmes of learning, prepare for employment, and gives apprentices personal growth and engagement in learning opportunities; by providing them with relevant technical skills, knowledge & behaviours. Finally it will support apprentices who will have a role in the workplace by enabling them to be eligible for registration with the Institute of Quarrying as a Technician grade member.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites for accessing the End Point Assessment are that the apprentice should:

- Have achieved the relevant vocational qualification as prescribed in the apprenticeship standard*
 - *MPQC Level 2 Diploma in Plant Operations Extractives*
 - *MPQC Level 2 Diploma in Processing Operations for the Extractive & Mineral Processing Industries*
 - *MPQC Level 2 Diploma in Precast Concrete Operations*
- For apprentices who have not yet achieved level 2 English & Mathematics; as a minimum, apprentices will be required to achieve at least level 1 in English & Mathematics but the apprentice will also be required to take the test for the level 2 in English & Mathematics
- Apprentices must complete a portfolio of evidence and maintain CPD records
- Each apprentice must complete a minimum of 12 months learning
- The employer must be satisfied that the apprentice has satisfied the above criteria and is ready for End Point Assessment

**APA/APL of the following qualifications is an acceptable alternative to the prescribed VQ:*

- *NVQ Level 2 Specialised Plant & Machinery Operations (N.B. This must be obtained in a mineral processing context)*
- *NVQ Level 2 Processing Operations (N.B. Endorsement must be for the same process type as apprentice training delivery)*
- *NVQ Level 2 Plant Operations*
- *MPQC Level2 NVQ Diploma in Plant Operations (Extractives – Extracting Plant)(QCF)*
- *MPQC Level2 NVQ Diploma in Standard Process Operations for the Extractive & Mineral Processing Industries (QCF)*
- *MPQC Level 2 Diploma in Plant Operations Extractives (QCF)*
- *MPQC Level 2 Diploma in Processing Operations for the Extractive & Mineral Processing Industries (QCF)*
- *MPQC Level 2 Diploma in Precast & Prestressed Concrete Operations (QCF)*

End Point Assessment

EPA will comprise the following:

Knowledge Assessment (A)

Knowledge assessment consisting of 30 multi-choice questions picked at random from a question bank of at least 90 questions to assess the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours as described in the Standard. This question banks will be drawn up as mandated in appendix 1 of the Apprenticeship Standard Assessment Plan.

The knowledge assessment will be conducted under invigilated conditions preferably at the workplace as part of the overall end point assessment and will be subject to time constraints of 60 minutes. The pass rate is 80% and 100% for a distinction.

Practical Observation (B)

Observation of practical skills, under normal working and operational conditions, which will be undertaken at the workplace of the apprentice covering:

- the full range of pre-operational functions
- performing operational tasks
- post-operational activities
- completion of relevant documentation
- routine maintenance inspections

The above are all set out in detail in the relevant Assessment Checklists.

The practical observation is to allow the Assessor to confirm that the apprentice can operate the plant to a competent level while performing their normal duties, the Assessor will then use observations made to form part of the professional interview questions where the Assessor can explore the apprentice's knowledge, skills and behaviours towards the tasks. The practical observation may be recorded onto video format for use in the professional interview and auditing purposes. The duration of the practical observation will be no less than one hour and long enough for the apprentice to demonstrate they are competent to operate the plant equipment to the required level.

Professional Interview (B)

A professional interview between the End Point Assessor and the apprentice using appendix 1 of the Apprentice Standard Assessment Plan which mandates what Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours the Assessor is looking to evidence from the apprentice along with assessor notes made during the practical observation. The Personal Statement and any other evidence will be used as part of the Professional Interview. The interview will take place preferably at the workplace as part of the overall End Point Assessment process, the duration of the interview will be no less than one hour and no more than two hours. The End Point Assessment will cover in total the requirements of the Apprenticeship Standard. It will showcase the knowledge, skills and behaviours of the apprentice. The End Point Assessment process will cater for:

- clarification of any questions in relation to the supporting evidence directly with the apprentice
- judgements to be confirmed relating to the quality of the work of the apprentice
- exploring with the apprentice the approach adopted whilst undertaking the apprenticeship journey
- making a full rounded assessment prior to awarding an overall apprenticeship grade
- Mandatory Portfolio of Evidence which will contain:
 - Logbook of work activities undertaken
 - Performance Review Records completed by the on-programme Assessor
 - Record of achieved Competencies
 - Evidence of Occupational Tasks successfully completed
 - Recorded Professional discussions between the apprentice and the on programme
 - Assessor to assess underpinning knowledge and understanding; particularly covering non-observed scenarios and behaviours
 - Personal Statement covering skills, knowledge and behaviours as prescribed in the Apprenticeship Standard
 - Evidence of any additional relevant Continual Professional Development (CPD)

Grading

There are three grades available for the Apprenticeship:

- **Fail** - Apprentice did not achieve a minimum of a pass in assessment a or b
- **Pass** - Apprentice achieved a minimum of a pass in assessment a and b
- **Distinction** - Apprentice achieved a distinction in assessment a and b

The grading will be based on how the evidence contributes to:

- What the apprentice has shown they know against the Apprenticeship Standard
- What the apprentice has shown they can do against the Apprenticeship Standard
- How the apprentice has approached the tasks and the way they have completed designated tasks

A pass apprentice is competent and capable of operating the plant equipment and fulfilling their responsibilities to the expectations specified in the standard. They are health and safety focussed, flexible and adapt to change in the work schedule. They are consistent in quality of the products, evidences a good understanding of their role and responsibility. They are able to respond to any questions clearly and accurately.

A distinction apprentice, in addition to meeting the pass criteria, they are confident, organised and proactive in their approach to work, they continually manage and use their time effectively and demonstrate a constant attention to detail in all aspects of their work. They are capable of adapting quickly to change in workload and customer requirements. Their approach goes beyond the basic, is backed up with evidence of a full depth of understanding of their role, impact on the business and on the end user. They are proactive in their approach towards health and safety. They are consistently able to respond to any questions asked with full justification for any decisions made or advice given, further evidencing a full depth of understanding as well as consequences for actions.

Re-takes and re-sits

If successful a Certificate of EPA will be issued by EMPI Awards to the apprentice and a Certificate of Achievement for the Apprenticeship will be awarded by the Institute for Apprenticeships. However, if unsuccessful the apprentice and training organisation will receive feedback together with a remedial action plan to complete before re-taking the End Point Assessment again. Due to the health and safety critical nature of the role, only one re-take will be permitted. There may be occasions where a re-sit is appropriate but where no further training is required. A minimum period of one month additional training must be completed before the apprentice re-takes the EPA. The re-sit or re-take must be completed within three months of the initial EPA. Additional fees will apply for re-takes & re-sits.

Should the apprentice fail the re-sit or re-take then it will be down to employer's discretion on the next steps for this apprentice.

This specification is mandated in the Apprenticeship Standard Assessment plan for ST0144.