



The Assessment Service Centre
for Project Controls professionals

The Assessment Service Centre

Formed by The Association of Cost Engineers in 2004 to provide a “not for profit” service to the project controls industry. The offices are based in Sandbach, Cheshire with the assessors working from their homes all around the United Kingdom.

TASC uses assessors and verifiers who are fully registered and trained in the arts and science of Vocational Qualifications and the benchmarking processes and who are also long-term project controls practitioners.

TASC will be pleased to provide information on any aspect of the

**Benchmarking process
Project Controls Standards
National Vocational Qualifications.**

For more information please contact:

The Administrator
TASC
ACostE,
Lea House
5, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach, Cheshire. CW11 1XL

Tel 01270-764798
Fax 01270-766180
Email tasc@acoste.org.uk



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Project Control Operations Benchmarking

using

National Professional and Intermediate Standards

- Project Managers
- Cost Engineers & Analysts
- Cost Estimators
- Planning Engineers
- Contract and Commercial Personnel
- Multi-disciplined Project Controllers

and

- The businesses in which they work

Why should businesses be interested in Benchmarking to the Project Control Operational Standards?

- To obtain an unbiased, external professional view of operational competence and individual development needs
- To help place individuals in the most suitable employment positions
- To know whether the staff are ready for qualification programmes and which staff should be on which programme.
- To help extract the maximum benefit from the training budget

Background to the Benchmarking Process

Project controllers make a vital contribution to the successful completion of any project. The skills of the project control disciplines provide the proactive “eyes and ears” of good project management. The national set of occupational standards that provide the basis of the Benchmarking process have been developed during 2004 from best current practice in industry and as such represent the most authoritative “Body of Competence” requirements available today.

Who designed the standards, qualifications and benchmarking process?

The Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB), in conjunction with the Association of Cost Engineers, led the project to create the occupational standards.

This was followed in turn by the approval of the Intermediate Level 3 and Professional Level 4 Project Control Vocational Qualifications.

Business demands have driven the development of the Benchmarking process by TASC and this is fully supported by the ACostE, ECITB, QCA and SSDA as another demonstrable use of the National Occupational Standards.

See the Project Control Standards and other Vocational Qualification information on the TASC section of the ACostE web-site at www.acoste.org.uk

How is the Project Control Benchmarking Achieved?

The process starts with the candidate completing a two page self assessment questionnaire based upon the Occupational Standards. This is followed by a short interview by the assessor to ensure the answers given include all current and previous knowledge and experience. The interview will: -

- Indicate particular experience and knowledge strengths.
- Identify areas where the candidate would benefit from training and /or work experience as part of helping to realise his/her full potential.
- Suggest what steps should be followed to translate the results of the benchmarking into nationally recognised qualifications at the appropriate level.

The Report to Management

The report to management will be completed against the five activities defined by the National Standards and comprising a practitioner’s work-scope : -

Using technical skills

Working with people and managing yourself

Developing the project

Project Implementation

Closing out the project

Within these sections there are mandatory and optional standards that make up the total of 51 units. At the Intermediate Level a candidate has to meet the requirements of 12 Units and at Professional level, 20 Units.

A numerical rating of the candidate’s abilities and knowledge against the unit requirements enables the assessor to establish an overall rating of competence, with possibly a recommendation for further experience and knowledge acquisition, using the results measured against the Standards in the business areas noted above.

A score of 26 or more will satisfy the requirements for an Intermediate level practitioner and 60 is required for the full Professional level.

Performed regularly the process will provide an independent measure of progress achieved during a period by individuals, by whole departments or project teams.