

New Qualifications Framework/After the QCF – things to consider

What's proposed	Observations and/or issues	Potential impact and compliance burden
Framework for Regulated Qualifications (FRQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 'new descriptive framework' is how Ofqual describes it. It will bring QCF and NQF AOs and qualifications together. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is more for NQF AOs to address in the changes. For all AOs keep work plans flexible, or consider how else you can gear up to fit this additional compliance work.
Sunrise provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dates for implementation to be advised by Ofqual: they have not invited views about dates. Recommend that AOs say to Ofqual how long they will need to make changes, particularly when they would be ready to publish new qualification specifications (linked to change to Condition E3): hopefully this may be heard by Ofqual. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. How long will you need to make any changes and come into compliance with new or amended Conditions?
<p>New Condition E9 to assign a level to qualifications, or components of qualifications.</p> <p>New set of level descriptors that include knowledge and understanding only references.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New level descriptors broadly align to what is in the current QCF level descriptors. Some new language brought in 'basic' (Entry & L1) 'simple' (Level 1) and 'advanced' (Level 6) descriptors. These are subjective descriptors. Missing is anything on 'autonomy & responsibility': whether a learner can work autonomously in applying themselves to a task (usually associated with L2 & above performance); ability to make judgements, use initiative, take responsibility, create and formulate, make plans, develop and lead in areas is no longer there. These are useful references when evaluating level. Qualifications may still contain 'components' at different levels: if an AO assigns more than one level to a 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Decision on level - this will/may impact AOs operating under NQF.

	<p>qualification it needs a clear rationale and must publish its rationale.</p>	
<p>New Condition E7 on TQT (Total Qualification Time)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the purposes of ASCL¹ only guided learning is required. Ofqual is requiring more than that, it also wants AOs to assign Directed Learning and Invigilated Assessment time. The latter requirements are additional burden. • AOs will need to estimate, seek out information from users and experts, gather statements from Centres/third parties and be able to justify Guided Learning, Directed Learning and Invigilated Assessment hours for new and existing qualifications. This could be a substantial piece of work depending on AO size, intelligence already held and staffing capability. • From AO research and its evidence base of different approaches to delivering a qualification AOs will need to assign <u>the lowest number</u> of hours found for GL, DL & IA to that qualification. • Applying the guidance given by Ofqual: if Centres use blended learning, time spent on 'unsupervised' Elearning cannot count towards GL. • E7.3 (a) TQT to be kept under review – what will this mean/require? Additional checking in the field on how applicable exiting TQT is? 	<p>4. TQT information to be identified and evidenced for both new and existing qualifications.</p>
<p>Condition E2 amended – Qualification titles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This requirement on qualification titling is only relevant where an AO amends a qualification level: more likely to be relevant to NQF users. • The consultation also includes guidance on titling. For example where 'NVQ' may be applied; how 	<p>5. Qualification titles will need to be looked at by NQF AOs to support compliance. The guidance looks more like rules in this area.</p> <p>6. Check for eligibility to use NVQ.</p>

¹ Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009

	<p>award/certificate/diploma may be used to indicate small/medium/large qualifications using TQT value. This may affect NQF AOs more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using 'QCF' within titles to be phased out by December 2017. 	7. Management of withdrawing QCF in qualification titles.
Condition E3 amended – requirements of Qualification specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualification specifications need revision to include TQT, any Credit value assigned and Level information. 	<p>8. Administrative updates to documentation and website information re: TQT, level and credit values (if using).</p> <p>9. Communication exercise with users on changes will be needed.</p> <p>10. Assigning Level to qualifications specifications: will potentially impact those AOs who have been operating under the NQF and have not applied or used the level descriptors of the QCF.</p>
Unit Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of the unit bank and unit sharing 2 years from withdrawal of the QCF. 	11. Review AO plan for provision and bring forward any qualification reviews that fall into the category of using common or shared units.
New Condition E8 on Credit value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assign a Credit value (which is optional) the formulae requires a calculation which will be to find one tenth of the TQT. Credit in the QCF was about the 'average' time for a learner to complete a unit/qualification. With the new approach, where TQT relies on the minimum number of hours to achieve a qualification, credit values will shrink. 	12. If credit values shrink for qualifications AOs may need to manage previous or existing learners entitlement or expectations for claiming any RPL towards units/qualifications going forward.

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<p>New Condition E10 on Prior Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an AO provides any recognition of prior learning they must publish their process. The guidance given by Ofqual here on RPL suggests detailed procedure, criteria for decision making and how complaints might be handled should be published. 	<p>16. AO to write down RPL procedures and requirements. 17. Where AOs have allowed or allow Centres to advise and agree RPL will need to be considered.</p>
<p>New definitions</p>	<p>New terms are introduced eg component, Directed learning etc</p>	