

National Apprenticeship - Occupational Profile

Apprenticeship Title Scaffolding

NFQ Level Level 5 Certificate in Scaffolding

Duration 2 years

Duration Scaffolders

Typical tasks/ responsibilities

Scaffolders erect and dismantle scaffolding that allows workers to reach the higher levels of buildings during construction, cleaning and renovation projects. Scaffolders must also undertake safety checks and inspections to ascertain any faults and rectify if necessary. Scaffolders must also maintain a safe working environment to include safe storage of excess scaffolding equipment.

Scaffolding duties would include:

- Unloading scaffolding equipment at site.
- Setting base plates on the ground at regular intervals to spread the load.
- Putting up the scaffolding poles (standards) and attaching the horizontal tubes, ledgers and transoms or using a variety of System Scaffold options.
- Fixing the scaffolding to the building or structure to make it more stable, using short “tie tubes”.
- Laying planks, securing as required, (battens) across the scaffolding for workers to walk on.
- Fixing guard rails and safety netting.
- Taking down the scaffolding after a job is finished.
- A Scaffolders may also use scaffolding methods to put up temporary spectator stands, stages or gantries at public events. A Scaffolders could also build the scaffold around the formwork and shuttering that holds setting concrete in place on large structures like bridges.

On successful completion of the proposed apprenticeship, a person in the occupation of Scaffolders will have the following knowledge, skills and competencies:

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate substantial knowledge of the types of scaffolding systems in use, its functions and significant understanding of the mechanics of how scaffolding is formed.
2. Exhibit a broad knowledge and proficiency in planning, preparation, measurement, calculation, safe erection and dismantling of scaffolding systems whilst adhering to all legislative requirements.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the context for scaffolding activity, including familiarity with regulatory, technological and employment in scaffolding and other disciplines encountered in professional practice.
4. Apply the relevant skills in operating a range of specialised scaffolding tools, equipment and machinery in a hazardous environment whilst adhering to regulatory requirements.
5. Identify potential hazards and apply appropriate evidence-informed control measures to resolve incidents in familiar and unfamiliar settings within a construction site.
6. Communicate and justify decisions relating to technical and non-technical information to a range of stakeholders in a variety of settings.
7. Exercise autonomy and judgement in the completion of scaffolding-related duties as employees and learners in an educational environment.
8. Exercise initiative and accountability in the context of work within the scaffolding industry, and for decisions made within a learning environment

Learning Outcomes

9. Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in teams and thus contribute to the development and improvement of their own work and the work of others.
10. Exercise personal responsibility for learning within a managed environment in order to further personal and professional development for self and others.
11. Demonstrate an awareness of the function and role of the Scaffolder from a personal, occupational, societal and environmental level.

Knowledge

1. Of and ability to use all types of scaffolding systems, their functions and the mechanics of how scaffolding is formed.
2. Of the planning, preparation, measurement, calculation, safe erection and dismantling of scaffolding systems whilst adhering to all legislative requirements.
3. Familiarity with regulatory, technological and employment in scaffolding and other disciplines encountered in professional practice.
4. Operational Design Guides / Manufacturers Guidelines / Standards Guidelines 4 / Technical Guidelines 4:17 / Anchorage Systems for Scaffolding
5. Load paths and bracing patterns.
6. Of the effects of wind loading on scaffolds and the existence of BS 6399-2 in this effect.
7. The different types of forces that act on scaffold structures.
8. HSA Code of Practice for Access & Working Scaffolds

Skills

1. Operate a range of specialised tools, equipment and machinery in a hazardous environment whilst adhering to regulatory requirements.
2. Identify potential hazards and apply appropriate evidence-informed control measures to resolve incidents in familiar and unfamiliar settings.
3. Communicate decisions relating to technical and non-technical information to a range of stakeholders in a variety of settings.
4. Erect and dismantle all types of tube and fitting scaffolds
5. Inspect and maintain all components of scaffolding.
6. RAMS: Conduct a risk assessment to identify the hazards, evaluate the risks and identify any control measures to be implemented, put in place a method statement.
7. Devise Rescue Plans and Safety Procedures for each task.
8. Conduct a range of erection and dismantling tasks including:
 - Independent tied scaffold
 - Truss-out scaffold
 - Suspended scaffold
 - Working to a design
 - Bridged Scaffold using unit beams or alloy beams Staircase in all systems
 - Loading bay in excess of 2 tonnes
 - Bespoke design scaffold/structure
 - Cantilevers
 - Chimney scaffolds
 - Splayed scaffolds
 - Birdcages
 - Load-bearing gantry, Lifting gantries
 - Class A and B protection fans
 - Ties and testing of same
 - Aluminium Tower
 - Temporary enclosures
 - Free standing scaffolds
 - Heavy duty platforms for working/travelling MEWPs

Skills Cont'd

9. Store components in the correct manner.
10. Inspect scaffolding prior to handover.
11. Rescue from a suspended position and from a confined space
12. Assist in completion of GA3 form and hand over scaffolding certificate to end user
13. Conduct a calculation to determine the ground pressure from a single standard at worst case.
14. Perform basic ground assessment tests to determine suitability and sole board dimensions.
15. Read and interpret drawings.
16. Inspect and ensure integrity of structure.
17. Skilled at working at heights, manual handling, harness and lanyard Inspection
18. Effective communication skills

Competencies

1. Work as a team member
2. Ability to work independently and on their own initiative
3. Problem Solving
4. Planning
5. Information gathering
6. Health & Safety
7. Assertiveness and Confidence
8. Resilience
9. Critical thinking
10. Creativity
11. Competency and willingness to work in confined spaces

Industry/Industries served by the proposed apprenticeship

Scaffolding is a temporary platform that is used to elevate, offer support, and provide materials during a construction process for the repairing or cleaning of a structure. It is installed prior to construction or starting of maintenance work. Scaffolding will always be required as it is used to

- ensure the safety of the workers while the building is being built or maintained
- provide a degree of support to a standing structure during the construction phase.

The scaffolding industry comes under the umbrella of the construction industry and crosses many areas within this industry. From its inception off-site the contractor will be responsible to engage the Scaffold designer who will create the model and design of the scaffold to be used.

The qualified scaffolder will erect the scaffolding to the specifications outlined, as per the design. The build, maintenance and dismantling of the project will be managed by the Project supervisor. The scaffolding itself will be subject to regular checks and 7 day inspections and can be inspected by a (HSA) Health and Safety Inspector at any time.

Due to the nature of scaffolding all trades present during the construction life cycle of the project will use it. It will also be used to temporarily hold loads of materials and supplies on specified loading bays.

During city builds, where scaffolding is on the side of a roadway or overlooking a street, extra factors come into play including safety for those not using the scaffolding but may be in contact with it. Street modifications including encasing the scaffold bars in pedestrian-friendly shutters and safety netting etc are all mandatory requirements.

Proposed minimum entry requirements for apprentices on the programme

To be eligible for an apprenticeship, you must

- Be employed with a SOLAS approved Employer
- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have a minimum of grade D in 5 subjects at level 3 on the National Framework of Qualifications to include a pass in English and Maths
- Have evidence of CEFRL level B2 minimum if English is not a first language
- Current Valid Safe Pass
- 3 months on site experience

If you don't have these qualifications, you may still register as an apprentice with an employer if you:

- Complete an approved preparatory training course followed by an assessment interview, or
 - Are over 18 years of age and have at least 2 years of relevant work experience in the construction industry, in which case you will also be asked to do an assessment interview.
 - Non-EU residents will be subject to a Stamp 4 working visa
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