

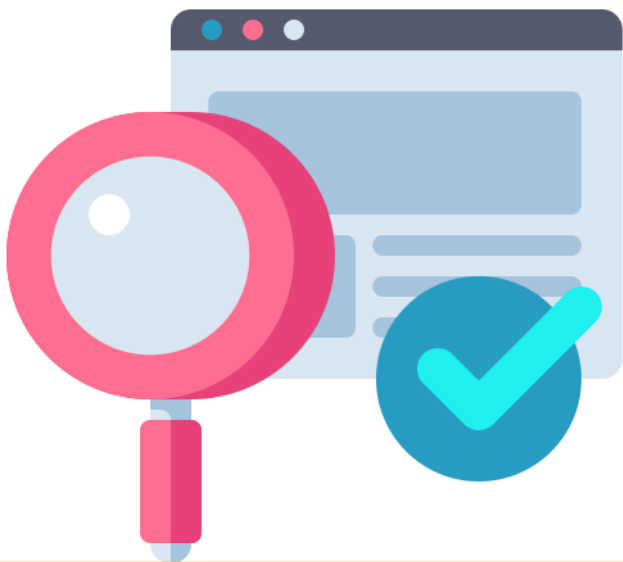


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EPA Handbook

ST0463-Industrial coatings Applicator V1.2

Please note this Standard is retired with effect
from 12.06.2024.



Version history

Version	Date	Change(s) made	Section(s)	Publication source(s)
1.0	May 2023	New document.	All	Development Team
1.1	July 2023	Revisions	All	Development Team
1.2	September 2023	Clarifications	Gateway	Development Team
1.3	April 2024	Retirement of Standard	All	Operation Team

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This handbook outlines the requirements of the apprenticeship standard, including the different types of End-Point Assessment tests, the test rules and who should be involved.

For further information about apprenticeship standards and Trailblazers please contact **enquiries@openawards.org.uk**.

Occupational Overview

Industrial coatings applicators play a key role in protecting the nation's infrastructure from deterioration for the benefit of existing and future generations. They are required to prepare the surface of new or existing steel structures to remove any contamination, mill scale, rust, or unsound existing coatings, and apply the appropriate corrosion protection coatings to specified standards. A competent industrial coatings applicator will be able to undertake the role safely and without supervision. The work usually takes place within a workshop or a designated area of a construction site for new steel structures, and on site for the maintenance or refurbishment of existing steel structures.

The protected structure will usually be on display as part of the nation's infrastructure and may include bridges, sports stadia, wind turbines, and buildings used for example as power generation facilities, high rise offices, schools, colleges, hospitals, hotels and warehouses, as well as more minor structures such as lighting columns.

Certificated industrial coatings applicators will be employed within teams in small, medium or large enterprises and their work may involve travelling throughout the UK.

Further details on the knowledge, skills and behaviours associated within the occupational standard are accessible on the IfATE website¹ and can also be found in Appendix 1.

Standard information

Level: 2

Reference: ST0463

Approved for delivery: 27 September 2018

Route: Construction and the built environment

Typical duration to gateway: 18 months (this does not include the EPA period)

Employers involved in creating the standard: Hankinson Painting Contractors, MCL Coatings Ltd, Wood Group Industrial Services Ltd, Paintel Ltd, Taziker Industrial Ltd, Jack Tighe Limited, APB Construction (UK) Ltd, Nusteel Structures Limited, F.A. Clover & Son Ltd, Supablast Ltd

External Quality Assurance Provider: Ofqual

Entry requirements

There are no set entry requirements to become an Industrial Coatings Applicator. Employers will set their own entry requirements.

¹ <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/>

Support Material Overview

This section lists all the support materials available for this apprenticeship, what their purpose is and who they are intended for.

Document Name	Brief Description	Who Should Read this Document	When To Use this Document
Skills Scan	This document is designed to support employers and providers to ensure that an apprentice's job role meets the requirements of the standard.	Employer/Provider/Apprentice	Use this during the sign-up process.
Apprentice End-Point Assessment Journey	A one-page visual overview of the different milestones the apprentice will reach within their EPA journey.	Employer/Provider/Apprentice	Before committing to the course to make sure it is the right fit for you and throughout the EPA journey.
EPA Handbook	This provides an overview of the end-point assessment, the assessment methods, the grading criteria etc. It is a reference document which will guide you through each stage of the process.	Employer/Provider/Apprentice	During the apprenticeship to ensure all training requirements are achieved and the apprentice fully understands the EPA requirements.
Progression Tracker	This allows the employer to compile and record achievement against the criteria within the apprenticeship standard.	Employer/Apprentice	Throughout the EPA prior to gateway.
Portfolio Referencing Matrix	This covers the criteria that needs to be covered by the apprentice's portfolio of evidence.	Employer/Provider/Apprentice	While on programme to support you submitting the Portfolio of Evidence to support the Professional Discussion at gateway.
Preparation for the Practical Test	This provides a breakdown of how to prepare for the Practical Test and the KSBs and grading descriptors that will be assessed through this assessment method.	Employer/Provider/Apprentice	When preparing for your Practical Test.
Document Name	Brief Description	Who Should Read this Document	When To Use this Document
Preparation for the Professional Discussion	This provides a breakdown of how to prepare for the Professional Discussion and the KSBs and grading descriptors that will be assessed through this assessment method.	Employer/Provider/Apprentice	When preparing for your Professional Discussion.

Gateway Requirements

The training provider must provide Open Awards with the following evidence to enable us to approve the gateway.

- Fully completed and signed Gateway agreement and authenticity forms.
- Level 1 English and mathematics. Apprentices without English and mathematics at level 2 must achieve level 1 English and mathematics and take the tests for level 2 prior to taking their EPA. For those apprentices with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement the apprenticeships English and mathematics minimum requirement is Entry Level 3 and British Sign Language qualifications are an alternative to English qualifications for whom this is their primary language.
- Apprentices must have completed the minimum apprenticeship on-programme duration (12 months from the start date).
- Portfolio of evidence including as a minimum:
 - Evidence of at least 10 examples of completed corrosion protection works.

Assessment

The EPA consists of two assessment methods:

- Practical Test
- Professional Discussion.
-

Assessment preparation

Support materials are available through the Open Awards Secure Portal to help prepare apprentices for their assessments. These materials are available to support training providers and employers post-gateway to ensure apprentices are well prepared for their EPA experience. They are not intended to be used to measure proficiency pre-gateway or to support gateway decisions.

Order of assessments

The Practical Test and Professional Discussion can be completed in any order.

Assessment window

Both assessments must be passed within a period of three months from Open Awards approving the gateway. Both assessments must be completed over a maximum period of two consecutive days.

Practical Test

The practical test can take place at the employer's premises or at a location designated by Open Awards. The test will require the apprentice to apply protective coatings to steelwork to industry-recognised standards, as designed by Open Awards. The specific task will be based on the work the apprentice's employer typically produces and should test the apprentice's ability to:

- a) Prepare and maintain working areas for undertaking work safely and effectively including the safe use and secure storage of equipment and material.
- b) Use of established safe manual and mechanical handling techniques to move equipment, material and waste.
- c) Interpret and work to method statements, specifications, and inspection and test plans.
- d) Undertake the specified method of surface preparation of the steelwork (e.g. by hand or power tool cleaning, blast cleaning) and the specified method of protective coating application (e.g. by brush, roller, spray), to the required standards.
- e) Achieve the specified standard of work including the use of appropriate quality control measuring and test equipment, and instrumentation.
- f) Demonstrate responsibility for the quality and accuracy of their work including identifying and rectifying surface preparation and coating defects.
- g) Identify, use and maintain personal protective equipment.
- h) Maintain health, safety and environmental protection measures.

The apprentice will be provided with a task specification at the beginning of the practical test. During the practical test, the IEPA will ask the apprentice a series of six questions to assess underlying knowledge of industrial coatings applicator principles. Upon completion of the task, the IEPA will mark the completed coatings work, checking that it conforms to the drawings, the correct materials have been used and applied as instructed and all are within the given tolerances. IEPAs may assess up to two apprentices at any one time.

Assessment Timings

The practical test will last for 3 hours and 30 minutes (+/- 10%). The apprentice may complete the task early but will fail the practical test if it is not completed within the time allowed (+ 10% at the discretion of the IEPA).

Pass and grading criteria for the practical test are in the following table.

Practical Test Grading Descriptors

Pass Grading Descriptors	Distinction Grading Descriptors
--------------------------	---------------------------------

Pass Grading Descriptors		Distinction Grading Descriptors	
P1	Conforms to health, safety and environmental protection requirements during the planning and execution of allocated tasks. (K1, S1, S8, S9, B5)	D1	Can identify and make suggestions for improvement to health and safety standards.
P2	Selects appropriate tools for the given tasks including powered and nonpowered, demonstrating correct and safe usage and care, and correct manual handling techniques. (S2)	D2	Can evaluate and discuss a range of different techniques and justify the selections made.
P3	Selects the appropriate techniques and executes the given surface preparation and protective coating application task in accordance with stated tolerances and to stated specifications. (S4, S7)	D3	Achieves a quality of work that where possible exceeds international standards for dimensional inspection.
P4	Achieves a quality of work to meet the stated specifications, including the use of appropriate quality control measuring and test equipment. (S5)	D4	Is able to identify possible issues in executing the task as per the specification and can take steps to prevent any issues before they occur.
P5	Correctly interprets the specification including drawings. (S3)	D5	Is able to show initiative and helps to support improvements to workplace efficiency.
P6	Identifies surface preparation and coatings defects, and rectifies defective work (S6)		
P7	Demonstrates effective communication skills and accurate reporting. (B2)		

To achieve a pass, the apprentice must achieve all of the pass grading descriptors.

To achieve a distinction, the apprentice must achieve all pass grading descriptors and at least 4 distinction grading descriptors.

A fail is achieved if not all pass grading descriptors are achieved.

Practical Test Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours

Ref	Criteria
Knowledge	
K1	Health and safety relating to industrial coatings application including relevant health and safety regulations, the need for and methods of safe working, the requirement for access systems and working platforms for safe working at height, hazard identification and mitigation, and the health, safety and environmental implications of the various materials and substances used
Skills	
S1	Prepare and maintain working areas for undertaking work safely and effectively including the safe use and secure storage of equipment and material.
S2	Use established safe manual and mechanical handling techniques to move equipment, material and waste.

S3	Interpret and work to method statements, specifications, and inspection and test plans.
S4	Undertake the specified method of surface preparation of the steelwork (e.g. by hand or power tool cleaning, blast cleaning) and the specified method of protective coating application (e.g. by brush, roller, spray), to the required standards.
S5	Achieve the specified standard of work including the use of appropriate quality control measuring and test equipment, and instrumentation.
S6	Identify surface preparation and coatings defects, and rectify defective work.
S7	Care for and maintain tools and equipment.
S8	Identify and correctly use appropriate personal protective and respirator equipment ensuring that it is in good condition and working correctly.
S9	Maintain health, safety and environmental protection measures.
Behaviours	
B2	Be able to communicate effectively and work effectively with others.
B5	Be accountable for their health and safety, and the health and safety of others.

Professional discussion

The apprentice and the IEPA will have a two-way dialogue, allowing the apprentice to evidence the KSBs assigned to this assessment method and draw on appropriate evidence from their portfolio to underpin the discussion. The portfolio of evidence will be used by the apprentice to provide evidence to support the discussion and will not in itself be assessed or contribute to the overall grade.

The professional discussion must be conducted on a 1:1 basis in a controlled environment free from distraction or influence. The discussion can take place face-to-face or remotely. The discussion will be recorded.

Assessment Timings

The professional discussion will last for 60 minutes (+/-10% at the discretion of the IEPA).

Pass and grading criteria for the professional discussion are in the following table.

Professional Discussion Grading Descriptors

Pass Grading Descriptors		Distinction Grading Descriptors	
P1	Recognises the importance of, and can explain the reasons why health, safety, environmental related rules, legislation and regulations are important in the application of coating industry. In addition demonstrates specific knowledge regarding preventative measures needed in the corrosion protection process. (K1, K2, K3)	D1	Able to evidence instances where they have been able to suggest / implement improvements to work place safety and explain why these improvements have been successful.
P2	Demonstrates an awareness of the various paint substances and sizes of blasting materials; recognises the	D2	Can describe a range of common fault diagnosis techniques and recognises where these are best applied. Can

Pass Grading Descriptors		Distinction Grading Descriptors	
	common component names and descriptions. (K4)		justify why the specific techniques were selected to identify and rectify faults.
P3	Identifies the correct powered and nonpowered equipment and tools for a given task and can describe their safe usage. (K5)	D3	Provides evidence of instances where they may have been exposed to unsafe/undesirable behaviours and how they dealt with these occurrences. Explains their actions and describes what other options may have been available and why these were not deemed suitable or pursued.
P4	Provides correct information when questioned on a range of common errors and poor techniques related to coatings tasks and coatings defects. Demonstrates an understanding of common faults and how to rectify them. (K6)	D4	Recognises the impact of nonconformance on workplace behaviours and organisational culture.
P5	Describes the correct reporting procedures and understands the importance of record keeping. (K7)	D5	Can explain how they can personally contribute to the productivity and dynamics of the team.
P6	Explains the importance of productive team working and maintaining industry best practice. Able to explain the importance of conforming to the work place behaviours articulated in the standard. Fully aware of the implications of deviating from these behaviours. (B1, B3)	D6	Can explain the roles and responsibilities of allied trades and explains where the work of these trades will impact upon their tasks.
P7	Demonstrates a commitment to personal development, meeting production targets and effective planning. (B4)		

To achieve a pass, the apprentice must achieve all of the pass grading descriptors.

To achieve a distinction, the apprentice must achieve all pass grading descriptors and at least 4 distinction grading descriptors.

A fail is achieved if not all pass grading descriptors are achieved.

Professional Discussion Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours

Ref	Criteria
Knowledge	
K1	Health and safety relating to industrial coatings application including relevant health and safety regulations, the need for and methods of safe working, the requirement for access systems and working platforms for safe working at height, hazard identification and mitigation, and the health, safety and environmental implications of the various materials and substances used
K2	Legal requirements for protecting the environment.
K3	The need to address the areas that require protection from the high pressured projectiles and other contaminants released in the corrosion protection process.

K4	The types of industrial coating materials used, and the different techniques and equipment used for surface preparation and coating application.
K5	The safe use of the non powered and powered equipment and tools used in industrial coatings work.
K6	The causes of typical surface preparation and coatings defects, how they can be avoided and how they can be rectified.
K7	Quality documents, reporting systems and the need to keep basic records (e.g. work diary) and to do basic calculations (e.g. for material coverage and usage).
Behaviours	
B1	Have a questioning attitude to work including to understanding the processes used, the associated industrial trades and the need to embrace change to maintain industry best practice.
B3	Be able to think logically using clear and valid reasoning when making decisions.
B4	Be motivated and accountable for following specified procedures and controls, for planning and carrying out their work activities and consistently meeting production and quality expectations, and for their personal development.

Grading

Practical Test

- If one or more pass grading descriptors are not met, the assessment will be graded as a fail.
- To achieve a pass all pass criteria must be met.
- To achieve a distinction all pass and at least 4 distinction criteria must be met.

Professional discussion

- If one or more pass grading descriptors are not met, the assessment will be graded as a fail.
- To achieve a pass all pass criteria must be met.
- To achieve a distinction all pass and at least 4 distinction criteria must be met.

Overall grade

The grades from individual assessment methods will be combined in the following way to determine the overall grade:

Practical Test	Professional discussion	Overall grade
Fail	Any grade	Fail
Any grade	Fail	Fail
Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Distinction	Pass
Distinction	Pass	Distinction
Distinction	Distinction	Distinction

Resits and Retakes

Apprentices who fail one or more assessment method will be offered the opportunity to take a resit or a retake. Open Awards will provide feedback alongside the result notification to all apprentices who fail an assessment method. This feedback will be provided via the training provider, normally **within 10 working days** of the assessment taking place.

Resits or retakes are only to be taken in the event of a failure. A resit or retake cannot be taken with the intention of increasing the original grade if an apprentice has passed their EPA. Therefore, feedback will not normally be provided to apprentices who achieve a pass or higher.

The maximum grade that can be achieved for a resit or retake is a pass, unless Open Awards has determined there are exceptional circumstances. Where an apprentice believes exceptional circumstances impacted on their initial assessment attempt, they must submit a formal request with supporting evidence for exceptional circumstances to be considered, directly to Open Awards **within five (5) working days** of receiving the assessment decision.

Resits and retakes must be completed within 6 months of the original assessment otherwise the entire EPA will need to be taken again.

Quality assurance

Independent End Point Assessor Standard Requirements

Independent End Point Assessors must meet the following criteria:

- Be independent of the apprentice, their employer and training provider(s) i.e. there must be no conflict of interest
- Has a relevant assessor qualification and work experience in an industrial coatings environment at or above the level of this apprenticeship standard.

Internal quality assurance

Open Awards will complete quality assurance on assessments before results are released. Quality assurance is completed through observations and examination of documentation on a risk-based sampling model.

External quality assurance

External quality assurance for this apprenticeship standard is undertaken by Ofqual.

Assessment Specification

The assessment specification can be found on the Open Awards website and on IfATE's website in the published assessment plan for the standard. Details of which elements of the apprenticeship standard will be tested by each test are given below.

Mapping of knowledge, skills, and behaviours

Key:	
Practical Test	PT
Professional Discussion	PD

Ref	KSB to be assessed	Assessment Method
Knowledge		
K1	Health and safety relating to industrial coatings application including relevant health and safety regulations, the need for and methods of safe working, the requirement for access systems and working platforms for safe working at height, hazard identification and mitigation, and the health, safety and environmental implications of the various materials and substances used.	PT, PD
K2	Legal requirements for protecting the environment.	PD
K3	The need to address the areas that require protection from the high-pressured projectiles and other contaminants released in the corrosion protection process.	PD
K4	The types of industrial coating materials used, and the different techniques and equipment used for surface preparation and coating application.	PD
K5	The safe use of the non-powered and powered equipment and tools used in industrial coatings work.	PD
K6	The causes of typical surface preparation and coatings defects, how they can be avoided and how they can be rectified.	PD
K7	Quality documents, reporting systems and the need to keep basic records (e.g., work diary) and to do basic calculations (e.g. for material coverage and usage).	PD
Skills		
S1	Prepare and maintain working areas for undertaking work safely and effectively including the safe use and secure storage of equipment and material.	PT
S2	Use established safe manual and mechanical handling techniques to move equipment, material and waste.	PT
S3	Interpret and work to method statements, specifications, and inspection and test plans.	PT
S4	Undertake the specified method of surface preparation of the steelwork (e.g., by hand or power tool cleaning, blast cleaning) and the specified method of protective coating application (e.g. by brush, roller, spray), to	PT

Ref	KSB to be assessed	Assessment Method
	the required standards.	
S5	Achieve the specified standard of work including the use of appropriate quality control measuring and test equipment, and instrumentation	PT
S6	Identify surface preparation and coatings defects and rectify defective work.	PT
S7	Care for and maintain tools and equipment.	PT
S8	Identify and correctly use appropriate personal protective and respirator equipment ensuring that it is in good condition and working correctly.	PT
S9	Maintain health, safety and environmental protection measures.	PT
Behaviours		
B1	Have a questioning attitude to work including to understanding the processes used, the associated industrial trades and the need to embrace change to maintain industry best practice.	PD
B2	Be able to communicate effectively and work effectively with others.	PT
B3	Be able to think logically using clear and valid reasoning when making decisions.	PD
B4	Be motivated and accountable for following specified procedures and controls, for planning and carrying out their work activities and consistently meeting production and quality expectations, and for their personal development.	PD
B5	Be accountable for their health and safety, and the health and safety of others.	PT

Open Awards Policies

Current versions of the following Open Awards policies are accessible through the Secure Portal.

These policies include:

- End Point Assessment Pricing Policy
- Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy
- Data Protection
- Enquiries and Appeals Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Malpractice and Maladministration Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Sanctions Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Fair Access Policy

In addition, the current version of the following relevant document may be obtained by training providers, employers or apprentices by contacting Open Awards directly:

- Instructions for Conducting Controlled Assessment Remotely.

Support

For information about Open Awards' support offer, including information on policies, quality assurance, re-sits, appeals, complaints and general enquiries, please see our website: www.openawards.org.uk or contact our customer service team on 0151 494 2072 or via email at enquiries@openawards.org.uk.

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