

Purpose Statement

Open Awards Level 3 Award in Copper Communications Cable and Fault Finding (RQF)

The primary purpose of this Award qualification prepare you to enter or progress within the growing Communications Networks sector. You could progress onto the nested certificate, which enables smaller periods of learning, ie for the Awards, which could build into a Certificate.

Who is it for?

The qualification is for you if you are:

- Wishing to work in the installation commission testing, maintenance and fault finding
- Wishing to work as telecoms engineers carrying out testing and fault finding on copper telecoms cables
- Wishing to work in copper cable maintenance and fault finding across a range of industries including the oil and rail sector.

What does this qualification cover?

By the end of the qualification you will be able to:

- Understand the principles of electrical circuits
- Understand the reasons for testing copper communications lines
- Be able to use multi-meters to test copper cables
- Be able to use an Ohmmeter and Insulation Resistance Tester (Bridge Megger or similar) to test copper cables
- Be able to use a Certification Tester to test FTP, UTP and multicore copper links
- Be able to operate a TDR (Time Domain Reflectometer)
- Understand how to interpret test results

What are the Entry Requirements?

This qualification is suitable for those aged 18+

In order to access this qualification, you will need to have some basic experience in handling telecoms copper cabling either from employment or from courses such as Distribution Side Copper Cable Jointing.

You will require English and Maths at Level 2 or equivalent.

As the course includes concepts from physics at Level 3, it may not be suitable for adaptation to those who do not have a strong foundation in numeracy and/or literacy.

As colour codes are used for identification of individual fibres in cables, this qualification may not be suitable for those with colour vision impairment.

What are the Assessment Methods?

You will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence. This will be made up of a variety of coursework and assessments set by your training provider.

Examples of assessment types include:

- Written evidence of knowledge
- Practical skills assessments (tasked based)
- Skills observation
- Verbal question and answer

What are the Progression Opportunities?

This qualification provides a route into employment opportunities and further learning and training in:

- Highways Fibre Optic Installations/Maintenance
- Umbilical Cables Installations/Maintenance
- Telecommunications Engineers/Installation/Maintenance
- Fibre Optic Installations
- Network Planning and Design

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification was developed in partnership with Lucid Optical Services Ltd and is supported by the Fibre Optics Industry Association.