

ICTQual AB



Qualification Specification

ICTQual AB Level 1 Award in Breathing Apparatus Training



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ICTQual AB’s

Level 1 Award in Breathing Apparatus Training

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Qualification Specification about

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About ICTQual AB's

ICTQual AB is a distinguished awarding body based in the United Kingdom, dedicated to fostering excellence in education, training, and skills development. Committed to global standards, ICTQual AB's provides internationally recognized qualifications that empower individuals and organizations to thrive in an increasingly competitive world. Their offerings span diverse industries, including technical fields, health and safety, management, and more, ensuring relevance and adaptability to modern workforce needs.

ICTQual AB's delivers high-quality educational solutions through a network of Approved Training Centres worldwide. Their robust standards and innovative teaching methodologies equip learners with practical knowledge and skills for personal and professional growth. With a mission to inspire lifelong learning and drive positive change, ICTQual AB's continuously evolves its programs to stay ahead of industry trends and technological advancements.

Course Overview

The ICTQual AB Level 1 Award in Breathing Apparatus Training is designed to provide learners with basic knowledge and practical awareness needed to work safely in environments where air quality may be unsafe. In many industries such as firefighting, manufacturing, chemical processing, confined space work, and emergency response, workers may be exposed to smoke, toxic gases, fumes, or low-oxygen atmospheres. These conditions can pose serious risks to health and safety if not managed correctly. This qualification introduces learners to the purpose and safe use of breathing apparatus as a key protective measure in such situations.

The course focuses on helping learners understand what breathing apparatus is, why it is used, and how it supports safe working in hazardous environments. Learners will gain awareness of basic equipment types, routine operating procedures, and simple safety checks carried out before and after use. Emphasis is placed on following instructions, using relevant information, and working under guidance to complete well-defined tasks safely.

This Level 1 qualification supports the development of basic occupational competence by enabling learners to apply simple knowledge and practical skills in predictable work situations. It also encourages learners to recognise hazards, identify whether their actions are effective, and take responsibility for completing tasks correctly. Overall, this course provides a strong foundation for safe working practices and supports progression to higher-level safety and breathing apparatus training.

Aims

- To introduce learners to the basic use of breathing apparatus
- To develop awareness of hazardous atmospheres and personal safety
- To support safe and correct use of equipment during routine tasks
- To promote responsibility and safe behaviour at work

Objectives

By the end of the course, learners will be able to:

- Identify basic types and parts of breathing apparatus
- Understand simple procedures for safe use and care of equipment
- Use breathing apparatus for routine, well-defined tasks under supervision
- Select relevant safety information related to breathing apparatus use
- Identify whether actions taken have been effective and safe

Targeted Audience

This qualification is suitable for:

- New or entry-level workers in hazardous environments
- Employees requiring basic breathing apparatus awareness
- Workers in confined spaces, industrial, or emergency response roles
- Individuals seeking a foundation qualification in safety training

Certification Framework

Qualification title	ICTQual AB Level 1 Award in Breathing Apparatus Training
Course ID	HSE0013
Total Qualification Time	10 Hours
Guided Learning Hours	5 Hours
Grading Type	Pass / Fail
Competency Evaluation Assessment	Coursework / Assignments / Verifiable Experience The assessment and verification process for ICTQual AB's qualifications involves two key stages: Internal Assessment and Verification: ✓ Conducted by the staff at the Approved Training Centre (ATC) to ensure learners meet the required standards through continuous assessments. ✓ Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) is carried out by the centre's IQA staff to validate the assessment process. External Quality Assurance: ✓ Managed by ICTQual AB's verifiers, who periodically review the centre's assessment and IQA processes. Verifies that assessments are conducted to the required standards and ensures consistency across centres

Entry Requirements

The ICTQual Level 1 Award in Breathing Apparatus Training course welcomes participants from diverse backgrounds who meet specific entry requirements aimed at ensuring a conducive learning environment and optimal engagement.

- ✓ Participants must be at least 18 years old.
 - ✓ Due to the physically demanding nature of the training, participants should be in good health and possess a reasonable level of physical fitness. A medical fitness assessment may be required to ensure participants can safely use breathing apparatus.
 - ✓ Participants should have basic literacy and numeracy skills to comprehend course materials, follow written and verbal instructions, and complete assessments.
 - ✓ Participants may be required to complete a pre-course health questionnaire to identify any pre-existing medical conditions that could affect their ability to safely use breathing apparatus.
- Proficiency in the language of instruction is essential. Participants should be able to understand and communicate effectively in the language used for teaching the course to grasp the technical terms and safety protocols discussed.

Qualification Structure

This qualification comprises 5 mandatory units. Candidates must successfully complete all mandatory units to achieve the qualification.

Mandatory Units	
Unit Ref#	Unit Title
HSE0013-01	Introduction to Breathing Apparatus
HSE0013-02	Components and Maintenance
HSE0013-03	Operational Procedures
HSE0013-04	Safety Protocols and Emergency Procedures
HSE0013-05	Legislative and Regulatory Requirements

Centre Requirements

To ensure quality training delivery, centres must adhere to the following standards:

1. Centre Approval

- ✓ Centres must be formally approved by ICTQual AB's before delivering this qualification.
- ✓ Approval involves a review of facilities, policies, and staff qualifications.

2. Qualified Staff

- ✓ **Tutors:** Must hold a specialized Breathing Apparatus Instructor qualification (or equivalent operational experience such as Fire Service), possess a recognized teaching qualification at Level 3 or above, and maintain current competence in the safe operation and pre-use checking of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).
- ✓ **Assessors:** Must hold a recognized assessor qualification (e.g., CAVA, AVRA) or equivalent)
- ✓ **Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs):** Must hold a recognized IQA qualification (e.g. Level 4 Award in the IQA and Level 4 Certificate in Leading the IQA) and experience to oversee assessment standards.

3. Learning Facilities

Centre must offer:

- ✓ Private study areas and internet-enabled workspaces (for blended or physical delivery)
- ✓ Academic and pastoral support for learners
- ✓ Administrative support must be available to manage enrolment, tracking, and learner queries efficiently

4. Health and Safety Compliance

- ✓ All training facilities must comply with health and safety regulations.
- ✓ Centres must conduct regular risk assessments for practical activities.

5. Learning Resources

- ✓ **Course Materials:** Approved textbooks, study guides, and digital content must align with the qualification standards.
- ✓ **Assessment Tools:** Templates and guidelines must be provided to ensure standardized evaluation processes.
- ✓ **E-Learning Support:** Centres offering online or blended learning must implement an effective Learning Management System (LMS).

6. Assessment and Quality Assurance

- ✓ Centres must ensure assessments meet ICTQual AB's competency standards.
- ✓ Internal quality assurance (IQA) must be conducted to maintain consistency.
- ✓ External verifiers from ICTQual AB's will review assessment and training practices.

7. Learning Support

- ✓ **Qualification Guidance:** Support for coursework and assignments.
- ✓ **Career Pathway Assistance:** Information on progression opportunities in safe operation and pre-use checking of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus sectors.
- ✓ **Accessibility Support:** Accommodations for learners with disabilities or language barriers.

8. Policies and Compliance

Centres must uphold the following policies in accordance with ICTQual AB's standards:

- ✓ Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.
- ✓ Health and Safety Policy.
- ✓ Safeguarding and Learner Protection Policy.
- ✓ Complaints and Appeals Procedure.
- ✓ Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy.

9. Reporting Requirements

- Centres must provide ICTQual AB's with regular reports on learner registrations, progress, and certification outcomes.
- Assessment records must be maintained for external auditing and quality assurance purposes.

Support for Candidates

Centres should ensure that materials developed to support candidates:

- ✓ Facilitate tracking of achievements as candidate's progress through the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
- ✓ Include information on how and where ICTQual AB's policies and procedures can be accessed.
- ✓ Provide mechanisms for Internal and External Quality Assurance staff to verify and authenticate evidence effectively.

This approach ensures transparency, supports candidates' learning journeys, and upholds quality assurance standards.

Assessment

This qualification is competence-based, requiring candidates to demonstrate proficiency as defined in the qualification units. The assessment evaluates the candidate's skills, knowledge, and understanding against the set standards. Key details include:

1. Assessment Process:

- ✓ Must be conducted by an experienced and qualified assessor.
- ✓ Candidates compile a portfolio of evidence that satisfies all learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each unit.

2. Types of Evidence:

- ✓ Observation reports by the assessor.
- ✓ Assignments, projects, or reports.
- ✓ Professional discussions.
- ✓ Witness testimonies.
- ✓ Candidate-produced work.
- ✓ Worksheets.
- ✓ Records of oral and written questioning.
- ✓ Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

3. Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria:

- ✓ **Learning Outcomes:** Define what candidates should know, understand, or accomplish upon completing the unit.
- ✓ **Assessment Criteria:** Detail the standards candidates must meet to demonstrate that the learning outcomes have been achieved.

This framework ensures rigorous and consistent evaluation of candidates' competence in line with the qualification's objectives.

Unit Descriptors

HSE0013-01- Introduction to Breathing Apparatus

Learners gain basic awareness of breathing apparatus and its purpose in hazardous environments. The unit covers types of equipment, simple functions, and scenarios requiring use. It introduces routine checks and safe handling, enabling learners to understand hazards and apply basic procedures under guidance, forming a foundation for practical tasks and safe operation in predictable conditions.

Learning Outcome:

Assessment Criteria:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Understand the significance of breathing apparatus in ensuring safety in hazardous environments. | 1.1 State one reason why a person needs breathing apparatus in a smoky room.
1.2 List two health risks of breathing in toxic fumes without protection.
1.3 Identify one type of workplace where this equipment is used for safety. |
| 2. Identify different types of breathing apparatus, such as self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and supplied air breathing apparatus (SABA). | 2.1 Point to a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) from a picture or display.
2.2 Point to a Supplied Air Breathing Apparatus (SABA) from a picture or display.
2.3 State the main difference between air carried in a tank and air supplied by a hose. |
| 3. Explain the basic principles and functionalities of breathing apparatus systems. | 3.1 Show how air moves from the cylinder to the face mask.
3.2 Identify the part that controls the flow of air to the user.
3.3 Explain how the user knows how much air is left in the tank. |

HSE0013-02- Components and Maintenance

This unit introduces learners to the main parts of breathing apparatus and their functions. Learners learn simple maintenance, cleaning, and inspection routines to ensure safe operation. Focus is on recognising faults, following guidance for routine care, and understanding the importance of equipment readiness, supporting safe use and basic occupational competence in controlled work environments.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Identify the key components of breathing apparatus, including face masks, air cylinders, regulators, and harnesses.	1.1 Correctly name the face mask and the air cylinder. 1.2 Correctly name the regulator and the pressure gauge. 1.3 Correctly name the harness used to carry the equipment.
2. Perform routine maintenance and inspections to ensure the breathing apparatus is in optimal working condition.	2.1 Check the harness straps for any visible rips or damage. 2.2 Wipe down the face mask using the correct cleaning wipes after use. 2.3 Check that the cylinder valve opens and closes easily.
3. Recognize common issues with breathing apparatus and understand the steps to rectify them.	3.1 Identify a leak in the face mask seal. 3.2 State the correct way to report a broken part to a supervisor. 3.3 Tighten a loose strap on the harness to make it fit correctly.

HSE0013-03- Operational Procedures

Learners are guided through basic operational procedures for breathing apparatus use. The unit covers correct wearing, donning, doffing, and simple use in safe, controlled environments. Emphasis is on following step-by-step instructions, completing routine tasks under supervision, and identifying whether actions are effective, supporting confidence in performing predictable duties safely.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Demonstrate the correct procedures for donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) the breathing apparatus.	1.1 Put on the harness and tighten the straps securely. 1.2 Fit the face mask to ensure there is a tight seal around the face. 1.3 Remove the equipment safely following the correct steps.
2. Understand and perform the activation and use of breathing apparatus in various operational scenarios.	2.1 Turn on the air supply using the cylinder valve. 2.2 Read the pressure gauge to check the air level before starting a task. 2.3 Take three steady breaths to test that the air flow is working.
3. Develop proficiency in using the breathing apparatus under different conditions to ensure safety and effectiveness.	3.1 Walk a short distance in a straight line while wearing the equipment. 3.2 Crawl under an obstacle while keeping the face mask secure. 3.3 Complete a simple manual task (like picking up a tool) while wearing the gear.

HSE0013-04- Safety Protocols and Emergency Procedures

This unit provides learners with essential safety awareness while using breathing apparatus. It covers simple hazard identification, emergency response basics, and personal protective practices. Learners understand routine safety checks, follow guided procedures, and respond to straightforward emergency scenarios, ensuring personal and team safety during predictable work activities in hazardous environments.

Learning Outcome:

- 1. Identify potential hazards and risks associated with the use of breathing apparatus in hazardous environments.**
- 2. Implement safety measures and protocols to mitigate risks during operations.**
- 3. Execute emergency response procedures effectively in the event of equipment failure or other emergencies.**

Assessment Criteria:

- 1.1 List two dangers of working in a dark or smoky area.
- 1.2 Identify the risk of a mask seal breaking during work.
- 1.3 State the meaning of a low-air warning alarm or whistle.
- 2.1 Stay within sight and reach of a "buddy" (partner) at all times.
- 2.2 Use a simple hand signal to communicate with a teammate.
- 2.3 Check a partner's equipment for leaks before entering a work zone.
- 3.1 Demonstrate the hand signal used to call for emergency help.
- 3.2 Exit a room immediately when a low-air alarm sounds.
- 3.3 State the steps to take if the air supply feels restricted.

HSE0013-05- Legislative and Regulatory Requirements

Learners are introduced to key legislation and regulations relevant to breathing apparatus use. The unit covers workplace safety standards, employer responsibilities, and individual obligations. Focus is on basic compliance, understanding simple rules, and following guidance in routine tasks to ensure safe working practices. This supports learners in applying knowledge responsibly in predictable occupational settings.

Learning Outcome:

- 1. Understand the key legislative and regulatory requirements governing the use of breathing apparatus in the workplace.**
- 2. Ensure compliance with relevant local, national, and international safety standards and regulations.**
- 3. Maintain accurate documentation and records to demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements and to support audits and inspections.**

Assessment Criteria:

- 1.1 State that the law requires safety equipment to be tested regularly.
- 1.2 Identify the employer's duty to provide working and safe equipment.
- 1.3 State the worker's duty to use the equipment exactly as trained.
- 2.1 Locate a safety label or test date stamp on the cylinder.
- 2.2 Follow the "No Smoking" rule near the air cylinders.
- 2.3 Use the equipment only for the specific tasks it was designed for.
- 3.1 Mark a "Pass" or "Fail" on a simple equipment check-sheet.
- 3.2 Write the current date and time in the equipment logbook.
- 3.3 Record the final air pressure reading after a training session.

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