

## **APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD (LIGHT VEHICLE L3)**

### **Frequently asked Questions**

### **For Employers of Apprentices**

#### **What is the new Apprentice Standard?**

These are programs designed by groups of employers to more closely meet the needs of businesses in each sector. They have been developed as part of the Governments drive to improve the quality of apprenticeships across the whole of the economy and in doing so raise the status of apprenticeships as an alternative to university.

#### **When does the new Apprenticeship Standard (Trailblazer) start?**

The Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) Apprenticeship Standard is available now for L3. Prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 employers will need to co-invest at a rate of 2:1, meaning the Government will give the training provider £2 for each £1 the employer pays, for the duration of the course. This may be significant for apprentice employers who will be paying the Apprenticeship Levy after May 1<sup>st</sup> 2017. For more information contact us on [enquiries@theimi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@theimi.org.uk)

#### **Do I need to switch to the new Standard in 2017?**

No not immediately but the Government has stated its intention to phase out the SASE frameworks by the end of 2017 or the beginning of 2018. The funding for the current apprenticeship frameworks are being cut from May 2017 and from that date it may be difficult to find a training provider that will still be running these frameworks. You should consult your current training provider about their plans for 2017.

#### **Can I choose my usual training provider?**

Between now and May 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 you can. After that you can only choose a training provider that is on the new register of apprenticeship providers. The Government will publish the register in the New Year.

#### **My company will be paying the levy how will I use the funding for apprentice training?**

All companies in the UK with a pay bill of more than £3 million per year will pay the Apprentice Levy from April 2017; apprentices that live in England will be funded from this Levy using the new Digital Apprenticeship Service. HMRC will be contacting employers directly, informing them how to use this service from December 2016 or January 2017.

There will be separate funding arrangements for apprentices living in all other UK countries.

### **My company won't be paying the levy how will I draw down the funding for apprentice training?**

All companies in England will have access to funds from the Digital Apprenticeship Service whether they pay the Levy or not. However non-Levy payers will have to register to qualify. The Government says its register will be open in December 2016 or January 2017.

There will be separate arrangements for companies based in all other UK countries.

### **As a non-Levy paying company will I have to pay anything toward the cost of apprentice training?**

Current proposals for a company with fewer than 50 staff will not have to make a contribution to the training costs. However, if you have more than 50 staff but your pay bill is less than £3 million per year then you will have to contribute 10% of the training costs of your apprentices that live in England, the Government will pay the rest.

There will be separate funding arrangements for apprentices living in all other UK countries.

### **Will I have to transfer cash from one account to another?**

No the Digital Apprenticeship Service will transfer funds from your account to the training provider for you.

### **What if the money in my account doesn't cover the full costs of training?**

As a Levy payer if you run out of levy funds, then you will adopt the co-investment model as if you were a non-levy payer, where you will have to contribute 10% of the training costs of your apprentices that live in England, the Government will pay the rest.

There will be separate arrangements for apprentices living in all other UK countries.

### **Can I register as a training provider?**

Yes you will be able to join the new register of training providers but you will have to show that you have the capabilities to provide the training to the appropriate standards before being registered.

### **Will I choose the end point assessor or will the training provider do that?**

It is entirely up to you. Employers have the right to choose which licenced assessment body conducts the End point Assessment but you are free to let the training provide arrange this for you.

**What if I can't find the answer I need here?**

The IMI has endeavoured to include all the important information about the Apprenticeship Standard and the role and responsibilities of employers in the new system, but there is a lot to take in. If you cannot find the answer to your question here then please contact us on [enquiries@theimi.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@theimi.org.uk)