

# IMI Vocational and Technical Qualifications – Next Steps

We can now confirm the launch of an '[Extraordinary Framework](#)' which provides Awarding Organisations with new 'rules' on how to manage our awarding activities and support you through this unprecedented time.

The framework supports the following categories of qualifications we provide for learners registered in England, Northern Ireland and Wales and the primary mitigation approaches:

1. Estimate/calculate a result - qualifications where the primary focus is progression to HE/FE
2. Adapt assessment - qualifications where there is a dual-mixed purpose
3. Delay/reschedule - qualifications where their primary use is licence to practice or occupational competency.

## Where can I find the full list of IMI qualifications in scope?

The full list of qualifications can be found [here](#) or alternatively [here](#)

This list will provide qualification users with clarity around whether their qualifications fall in or out of scope of the extraordinary regulatory framework, and what the primary mitigation approach would be for that qualification.

## The qualification I am delivering is not on the list?

The list includes qualifications where there are learners currently registered with a completion date before 31 July 2020. If the qualification you are delivering is not on the list, please contact your EQA for advice.

For information on Functional Skills please see [here](#)

## Which learners do these arrangements apply to?

These arrangements apply to learners who were due to take assessments towards unit or qualification results between **20 March** (when classroom-based delivery was suspended) and **31 July 2020**.

This includes those learners who may be only part way through their programme of study (for example in year 12) and will continue with learning towards their qualification after this date – for example if they had planned to take an assessment on one or more units of a modular course half-way through a 2-year programme of study.

## What does this now mean?

Whilst the approaches outlined above (with further detail in the next section) are the primary mitigations, we understand that there may be centres who can, or will shortly be able to, deliver assessments safely to learners within government guidelines.

We are keen to ensure that learners are able to achieve their qualifications where they can do so safely and will actively support centres in doing so.

## Primary mitigations



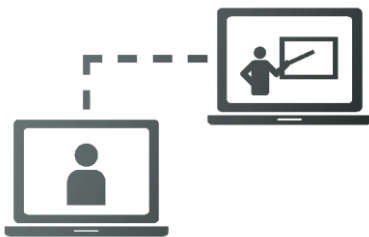
### Estimate/calculate

It has been confirmed that **calculated grades** should be used for qualifications where the primary purpose is progression to HE and FE.

For IMI, our **Technical Award** qualifications have been confirmed as category 1 for learners due to complete by 31 July 2020.

IMI will be providing full information on the process for estimating Technical Award qualifications by the **29 May 2020**.

*Please note that in the meantime direct claim status will be removed from these qualifications to support the quality assurance process.*



### Adaptation

Assessments where the primary purpose is occupational competence and the need to have the skills required fall within the **adapt** category.

This means the assessments for these types of qualifications may be adapted, taking into consideration that proposals are suitable under the current public health restrictions and do not contravene the requirements of the IMI.

To submit a proposal on how you can carry out an assessment whilst ensuring all criteria can be met and the integrity and standard of assessments are maintained, please contact your EQA.

IMI will be providing further information on the process for submitting proposals by the **29 May 2020**.

Further details on proposed adaptation options are detailed in the next section.



### Delay/reschedule

Despite this, a delay to the assessment of some qualifications is unfortunately inevitable, for example where there is no way of calculating a result or adapting an assessment in a way that does not undermine its reliability.

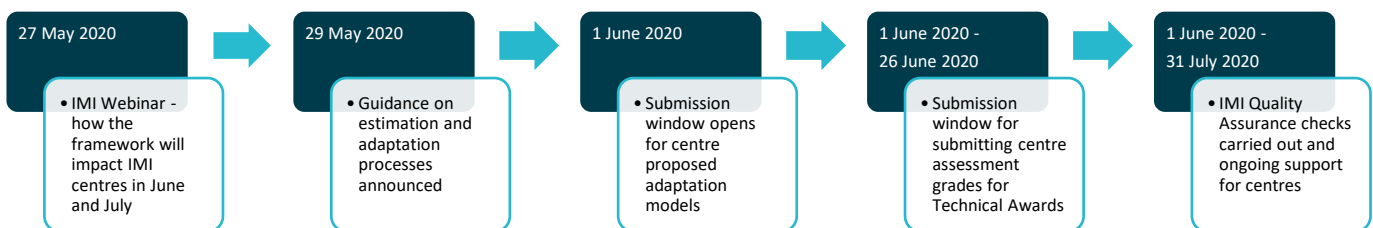
## Proposed adaptations

The main options for adapting qualifications that may be considered include:

- changing invigilation requirements – \*New\* IMI remote online invigilation process
- changing the way in which assessments are delivered, for example carrying out an assessment remotely rather than face to face
- adapting assessment methods, for example (when permitted) using a practical simulation in place of an observation, or professional discussion in place of a practical demonstration
- VCQ diverse evidence and assessor observations acceptable
- utilising previously practiced skills assessments
- previously recognised prior learning
- changing the way in which a qualification is quality assured, for example allowing for remote or online standardisation or moderation, where this is a change to an assessment strategy

## Timescales

Please find an outline of key dates over the next two months as follows:



## Risk management

Centre quality assurance records must be maintained and made available for IMI external quality audits. IMI will closely monitor centre activity and failure to follow this guidance and to certificate prior to EQA approval will be potentially viewed as maladministration or malpractice and appropriately action taken.

## Further advice and guidance

Further guidance to support centres with 'next steps' will follow next week. In the meantime please keep an eye on our news and FAQ pages below.

<https://www.theimi.org.uk/landing/covid-19/news.php>

<https://www.theimi.org.uk/landing/covid-19/faq.php>