

Cert News

NICEIC Certification

Centre News & Information

Issue 10

Welcome to the tenth edition of the news and information from NICEIC Certification.

MOT Style Certificates for Non-Accredited Certification

After a request to consider adopting a facility for the issue of MOT Style Certificates for Non-Accredited Certification, NICEIC Certification are now offering this facility to Centres.

We have decided to adopt the principles of the ACS MOT Style Certificate Process, for MOT Style Non-Accredited Certificates

A Non-Accredited Certification Candidate is able to take expiring Non-Accredited assessments up to six months (**and not before**) prior to the expiry date of their existing certification. The expiry date of the new certificate will be five years plus the remaining time period on the expiring Certificate.

For example;

A Candidates Un-Vented Hot Water Certificate expires on 25th March 2021, reassessment could be taken on the 25th November 2020 and the new Un-Vented Hot Water Certificate would be valid until 24th March 2026 (Five years and 4 months). Whereas an operative whose Water Regulations expires on the 25th March 2021 and takes the reassessment on the 11th January 2021 (Five years, 2 months and 2 weeks) would likewise be valid until 24th March 2026.

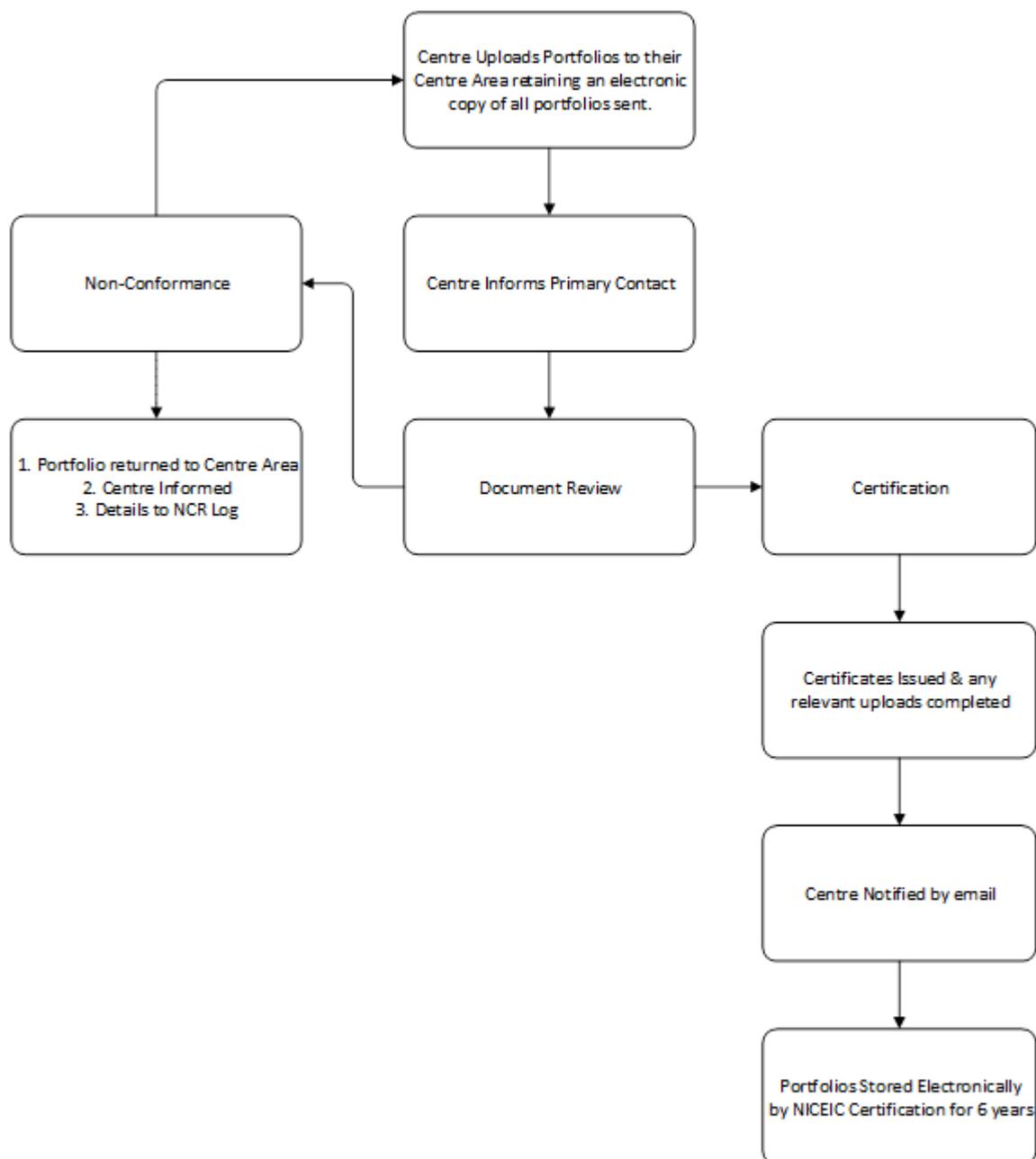
Operatives will need to present to the Assessment Centre their original expiring certificate before taking the assessment and claiming any MOT Style Certification.

A copy of this Certificate must be forwarded on within the Assessment Portfolio, which will include the Candidate Assessment Record (CAR) where either the relevant "MOT Style Certificate" request box is ticked or a clearly visible note to the effect that the "Candidate is requesting MOT Style Certification".

Electronic Transfer and Storage of Candidate Paperwork for Approved Assessment Centres, using OneDrive

NICEIC Certification have put together both an internal and external process and procedures to allow the electronic Transfer and process through to Certification of Candidate Assessment Portfolio's. The System has been trialled internally with good results and is now in the process of being trialled externally across three of our Approved Centres. If the current Trials all go as planned it is expected that the facility will be rolled out to all the Approved Centres, who want to use this facility in the future.

Overview of the Process being trialled:



The Certification of Persons Management System Council (CPMSC).

The last CPMSC meeting was held via Teams on the 3rd December 2020. The CPMSC are independent of NICEIC Certification and its role is to overview the activities of NICEIC Certification to ensure the proper functioning and impartiality of the Certification of Persons and Management System activities. If you or your customers have any issues or queries that you would like to bring to the attention of the CPMSC then these can be sent directly to the Chairman of the CPMSC (currently Mr Richard Searle). The direct e-mail address is; CPMSC@Certsure.com

The next meeting of the CPMSC will be held in May (DTBC) 2021.

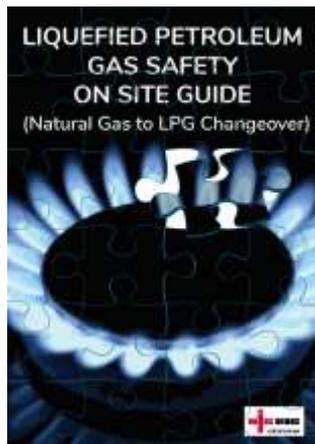
NICEIC Gas Publications update.

The Domestic & LPG On Site Guides have been updated and re-designed using new images, cleaner fonts and larger spacing between lines. Plus, a new cover has been given to each guide to give it fresh new look.

Domestic Gas Safety On Site Guide has been technically updated and, to improve user experience, rebuilt in a new template.



LPG Safety On Site Guide has also been updated technically and produced in the new template format.



The Domestic Power Point has been updated to reflect changes to the Domestic OSG.

Non-Domestic Gas Safety On Site Guide is in progress, and also follows the same ethos as both the technical updates and new template format for the Domestic OSG. Changes introduced by BS 6713: 2020 are to be included in the Catering Chapter and any implications of amendments to;

- Liquid Gas UK CoP 1-3
- Liquid Gas UK CoP 22
- BS 8446.

ACS Criteria Updates - 1st March 2021

All approved ACS assessment centres have been issued new 1st March 2021 amended assessment documentation (03/21) for implementation.

The changes for 2021 in relation to new technical criteria are minimal, an example being the introduction of the use of a non-contact voltage detector as described in BS6891 and TB118. This change is for knowledge and understanding only and catered for by combining the added criteria to existing questions on mains earth bonding.

In the LPG suite of assessments there has been further criteria interpretation around ventilation for habitable compartments for both caravans, motor homes and caravan holiday homes. This is in accordance with BS EN 721. This has created a review of specific questions in the theory sections.

In the ESP and non-domestic suite of assessments a minor criteria reference has been added for automatic isolation valves.

The read me first, contents and theory rationales all show specific changes in red text for centres to identify the differences from the last issue.

As always there are changes to documentation and methodology each year and the following are examples of some of the key changes:

1. The application form has been reviewed and edited into a two page document to capture information on “Category of Applicant”, “MOT Style Certificates” and “Electrical safety”.
2. The CENWAT initial and re-assessment PAWS has been reviewed to accommodate multi-choice answering.
3. The assessor guidance has been extensively reviewed and edited to accommodate the issue of the new ACS operational document in 2020.
4. Each assessment sector now has a scheme folder where updates to the scheme guidance documents are contained.
5. There are new guidance notes for 2021 and centres can view the status of these within the scheme folder.

Centres are reminded to implement the changes for 1st March 2021 and destroy all previous versions.

IGEM/IG/1 Standards of Training

A revised IGEM/IG/1 is due for the final submission for approval and publication by the IGEM’s Technical Coordinating Committee and submitted to the SMB for ratification.

The domestic Natural Gas training specification is nearing the end of its review and will be circulated for consultation when finalised. Other sector specifications will follow a similar review in 2021.

In the short term NICEIC Certification has issued updated versions (03/21) of the Domestic and Metering managed learning programmes to approved centres for implementation. Updates were necessary to keep abreast of the changes made to the ACS criteria.

The existing non-domestic managed learning programme is currently going through an extensive review of content, layout and delivery methodology and will be ready for issue around the spring of 2021.

Validation of Training (VOT) Criteria and Reports.

A revised “Validation of Training” (VOT) package (03/21) has been issued to all centres operating the ACS scheme. The use of this package is essential in supporting the requirements of Guidance Note 8 where applicant candidates are changing sector, extending scope and/or range of their activities.

NICEIC Approved Assessment Centre Quality Management System

The quality management system template provided by NICEIC Certification has been given a complete makeover and is now supplied as a self-contained package. The initial driver for the change was the issue of the new gas and oil scheme operational documents. It was decided during this review to improve the quality of the manual template and recording documents. We packaged the

system to aid navigation of the contents. The new package is version controlled 03/21 although an implementation date has been set for 1st May 2021 (05/21).

NICEIC Package & Qualifications Up-date:

Gas Safety Management Awareness Package

NICEIC Certification are finalising the development of the above programme and have decided there will be two versions. The first version is aimed at managers and supervisors who manage and control emergency service provider (ESP) and gas metering operatives and have a responsibility that can involve the inspection of work undertaken.

The programme content is designed to give ESP managers and supervisors a knowledge and understanding of gas safety principles and applications that their operatives require to perform on a day-to-day basis. It is essential that operatives who work on gas are competent to do so and any management structure for such operatives is designed to ensure this competency. Therefore it is essential that line management within the organisation who directly control gas operatives, understand their associated responsibility in relation to assuring a gas safe operation exists and that it is maintained at all times. This first version will be available for issue over the next few weeks.

The second version in development is for managers and supervisors responsible for controlling gas installation and maintenance operatives. This version is targeted for a spring 2021 issue.

Centres wishing to deliver either version of the programme should apply to the certification office in the normal manner in extending the Centre scope of approval.

Re-newable Energy Package Up-date.

There are plans to draw up a full suite of Minimum Technical Competences (MTC's) for all Re-newable Energy Technology Qualifications. The details within any MTC document are designed to provide confidence to all stakeholders in the installation process and that work is carried out safely and to the required industry standards within the regulatory framework.

Within the MTC's the trade specific annexes set out the mandatory skills, knowledge, experience, behaviour and Continuous Professional Development (CPD), requirements that will ensure that an individual working within a business has the appropriate skills to undertake work within an appropriate Competent Person Scheme.

Group Competence Scheme (GCS) Update.

NICEIC Certification is now the only Certification Body Accredited to Certify the Group Competence Scheme (GCS).

If you would like more information on GCS please contact lan.crockett@niceic.com .

An Introduction to NICEIC Team members;

Keith Adams



Keith Adams Primary Contact (Dartford)

When did you join NICEIC?

I joined the NICEIC team at Dartford in 2012

Who were your previous employers?

I previously worked for British Gas, joining them as an Apprentice Service Engineer back in 1978, then as a Service Engineer based in Addiscombe, Croydon. Progressing on to a Service Technician and then my final role at BG was a Recruitment and Diversity Specialist

What qualities do you bring to the roll?

I am able to think “on my feet” and in my opinion I am calm and collected under pressure, which helps me resolve day to day issues within my current role

What skills have you developed during your career?

Apart from the obvious Technical Skills, I have excellent communication skills, coupled with a caring demeanour and an ability to problem solve, all developed within the various roles that I have held throughout my career to-date.

Tell us about your home life and any interests.

I like to spend my spare time in the home listening to music and then when the British weather allows, my main outdoor interests are fishing and embarking on Motor Cycling adventures, which have taken me around the UK and Europe.