Apprenticeships

Process Manufacturing

The Process Manufacturing Apprenticeship Framework provides work based training for young people and adults to undertake key technical, operational and maintenance roles in the Chemical, Petro-chemical, Pharmaceutical, Refinery and other related process industries.

There are two levels of Apprenticeship contained in this framework:

- **The Intermediate Level Apprenticeship (Level 2) in Process Manufacturing**

This usually takes 15 to 24 months to complete.

- **The Advanced Level Apprenticeship (Level 3) in Process Manufacturing**

This usually takes 24 to 36 months to complete.

The framework contains details of vocational qualifications; knowledge based technical qualifications, Functional Skills (Maths, English, ICT), Personal Learning and Thinking Skills and employee rights and responsibilities required for an apprenticeship in Process Manufacturing.

Apprentices undertake training on-the-job at their workplace and off-the job usually delivered by a local training provider or Further Education College.

Summary of the purpose of the framework

This framework has been designed to meet the requirements for the type of work undertaken in the process manufacturing industries. The process manufacturing industries produce many of life's necessities including products like pharmaceuticals, soap and toiletries whilst the refining industries (also known as Downstream) are responsible for turning crude oil into fuels and lubricants.

The process manufacturing industries face many considerable challenges: competition from companies all over the globe, the requirement to be safe, clean and sustainable and ever increasing public expectations for new and better products. Technology, science and engineering underpin the success of process manufacturing industries. Research engaging employers and stakeholders has shown that there is an ongoing demand for highly skilled and flexible scientists, engineers, production operatives, managers and leaders. With an ageing workforce and a decline in the number of technically trained people coming through the system, meeting this demand has become an imperative. (Cogent Sector Skills Assessment: www.cogent-ssc.com/research)

There are insufficient operators and technicians entering these industries to meet forecasted future demand. The framework is designed to meet the needs of the process manufacturing industries by providing the future skilled operators and technicians that will have the vocational skills and knowledge to meet the challenges listed above.

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After undergoing this Intermediate Level/ Advanced Level Apprenticeship, skilled operators and technicians could find themselves working in a variety of roles that aid production. A process operator or technician would start up, control, monitor and shut down the systems and machinery involved in production. A maintenance technician would keep the equipment in good working order. A refinery operator/ technician would monitor and assist in the production of refinery products.

Cogent is the Issuing Authority for this framework:

The Apprenticeship sector for occupations in chemical manufacturing, nuclear science, oil and gas extraction (also includes process technology, bioscience, polymer and sign making).

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