



## Polymer Processing Operations (Wales)

The Polymer Processing Operations Apprenticeship Framework provides work based training for young people and adults to undertake key technical and operational roles in the Polymer Processing Industries.

There are two levels of Apprenticeship contained in this framework:

- **The Foundation Apprenticeship (Level 2) in Polymer Processing Operations**

This usually takes 12 months to complete.

- **The Apprenticeship (Level 3) in Polymer Processing Operations**

This usually takes 24 to 36 months to complete.

The framework contains details of vocational qualifications, knowledge based technical qualifications, Essential Skills (Communication, Application of Number, Information Technology) and employee rights and responsibilities required for an apprenticeship in Polymer Processing Operations.

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 Apprenticeship Framework has been designed to meet the requirements for the type of work undertaken in the polymer processing industries. Polymer processing deals with the manufacture and production of polymer and synthetic substances such as plastic, nylon and PVC. Plastic is incredibly versatile and can be made from different ingredients, moulded into any shape, and put to a huge range of uses across industry and the rest of society, from carrier bags to electrical cables. It's no surprise that the polymer industry is one of the most important areas of manufacturing in the UK. One factory is likely to produce many different kinds of plastic items.

An apprentice would normally work in either a factory or workshop and learn how to mass-produce plastic or composite items. They would weigh and mix raw materials; learn about the production process; test products; maintain machinery; and make sure items are made on time and without wasting materials. Such is the diverse nature of the products manufactured, apprentices may find that they will be required to manufacture some products or components by hand-based methods.

Production requires practical skills, that will require the apprentice to work quickly on complicated tasks, use numeracy skills to mix materials, and need an eye for detail. Polymer companies tend to be clustered around Cardiff, Newport and Swansea in the south and along the North Wales coast and around Wrexham.

## Job Roles

- Process Setter/ Operator
- Quality Control Inspector
- Finishing & Assembly Operative
- Process Operator/ Technician

## 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).

Issue number: 1	This framework includes:  Level 2 Level 3
Framework ID: FR00393	
Date this framework is to be reviewed by: 18/07/2011	
This framework is for use in: Wales	

## Developer of this framework

Name: Ian Lockhart  
 Organisation: Cogent Sector Skills Council  
 Organisation type: Sector Skills Council  
 Job title: Apprenticeship Manager  
 Phone: 01925 515223  
 Email: [ian.lockhart@kogent-ssc.com](mailto:ian.lockhart@kogent-ssc.com)  
 Postal address: Unit 5  
 Mandarin Court  
 Centre Park  
 Warrington  
 WA1 1 GG  
 Website: [www.kogent-ssc.com](http://www.kogent-ssc.com)

## Issuing Authority's contact details

Issued by: Cogent  
 Issuer contact name: James Murdock  
 Issuer phone: 01925 515200  
 Issuer email: [apprenticeships@kogent-ssc.com](mailto:apprenticeships@kogent-ssc.com)