



Signmaking (Wales)

The Signmaking Framework provides work based training for young people and adults to undertake key technical and operational roles in the Signmaking Industries. There are two levels of Apprenticeship contained in this framework:

- **The Foundation Apprenticeship in Signmaking (Level 2)**

This usually takes 12 months to complete.

- **The Apprenticeship in Signmaking (Level 3)**

This usually takes 24 months to complete.

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

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 deals with the design, production and installation of all sorts of signs, from those displayed on company entrances to the advertising hoardings you see around football pitches.

The signmaking process can involve many diverse skills – from graphic design through to electrical engineering – and incorporates materials like vinyl, perspex, plastic, metal and glass. Various methods are used to produce lettering for signs, depending on the project – for example, computer-controlled routers for cutting out moulded glass fibre lettering. Screen-printing may also be used to produce posters, while traditional signwriting could involve designing by hand and painting with special brushes and enamel paint.

As an apprentice, you could be employed as a signmaker, sign installer, quality technician, or manufacturing technician. You could learn a range of skills including how to design signs; prepare different types of surfaces; cut out and build plastics into letters and logos; use digital technologies and install signs at sites. The nature of the work will vary with the employer, but it could involve machining, joining, engraving, etching, hand decorating, spray-painting and screen-printing.

After undergoing the Foundation Apprenticeship or the Apprenticeship, skilled signmakers and technicians could find themselves working in a variety of roles within the signmaking industry.

Job Roles

- Signmaker
- Fabricator/ Fitter

For further information please contact Ian Lockhart 01925 515223

- Quality Control Technician
- Sign Installation Maintenance Engineer
- Sign Designer

There will be an ongoing need to attract new employers and training providers to provide Signmaking Apprenticeships as at present some employers carry out their own non regulated training in Wales. Cogent has recently undertaken a number of projects with employers, training providers and the trade body (British Sign & Graphical Association) to increase the number of apprentices and people taking regulated qualifications in the signmaking industry.

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: FR00420	
Date this framework is to be reviewed by: 18/07/2012	This framework is for use in: Wales

Developer of this framework

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