

17 September 2015

Our Ref: RO38/2015

Dear Responsible Officer

Introducing the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)

I wrote to you on 6 August 2015 setting out our decisions on what will happen after we withdraw the QCF rules. In that letter, I confirmed that we would be introducing a new framework for all Ofqual-regulated qualifications on 1 October 2015, supported by level descriptors, and new Conditions, requirements and guidance covering:

- descriptions of the level and size of regulated qualifications;
- the approach to be taken when using credit, or when allowing the recognition of prior learning; and
- qualification titling.

Today, we have published the following documents which formally incorporate these decisions into our regulatory framework:

- a new edition of the *General Conditions of Recognition*
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-conditions-of-recognition/>)
- a new edition of our *Guidance to the General Conditions of Recognition*
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-the-general-conditions-of-recognition/>)
- *Qualification and Component Levels*
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualification-and-component-levels/>)
- *Total Qualification Time Criteria*
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/total-qualification-time-criteria/>)

- *Criteria for determining whether a qualification is relevant for the purposes of the Education and Skills Act 2008*
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criteria-for-determining-whether-a-qualification-is-relevant-for-the-purposes-of-the-education-and-skills-act-2008>)

The new requirements and guidance set out in these documents come into effect on 1 October 2015, with the exception of the new General Conditions E3.2(l)-(m), E3.4, E3.5 and E7. These Conditions will apply to all qualifications placed on the Register on or after 1 October 2015, other than to those that have, on or before 30 September 2015, been submitted to us for accreditation.

We will contact you again before the end of September with more information about how we propose to phase the introduction of these Conditions to qualifications that are on the Register on 30 September 2015.

You should draw this letter and the linked documents to the attention of your colleagues.

If you have any questions about the new conditions or guidance please contact our Regulatory Relationships team at: regulatory.relationships@ofqual.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Benson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy Benson
Executive Director for Vocational Qualifications