



Use of CoVE and Training Quality Standard badges

LSC subsidies for Training Quality Standard assessment costs

CoVE in suspension

CoVE expiry dates and subsidy periods

Eligibility for application

Use of CoVE and Training Quality Standard badges

- 1 Providers will not be able to display CoVE badges and branding as well as the Training Quality Standard (formerly the new standard) badges and branding. Thus providers who achieve Training Quality Standard (TQS) certification must remove related CoVE badges from their premises and communications. Registration for assessment under the TQS indicates acceptance of this condition, but will only take effect once certification under TQS is achieved. See www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk for full terms and conditions.
- 2 Providers will be required to remove all CoVE badges and branding from their premises and communications and cease promoting their organisation as a CoVE once their CoVE status expires, regardless of whether TQS certification has been achieved by that date. **See Table 1 for revised CoVE expiry dates.**

LSC subsidies for Training Quality Standard assessment costs

- 3 Subsidies are offered by the LSC against TQS assessment costs, for providers who hold CoVE status in good standing, up to a maximum of £6,000 for a Part A assessment and £1,500 for each additional Part B assessment.
- 4 Subsidies are offered at a standard assessment cost rate; the LSC will not offer subsidies above this standard assessment cost to cover any higher costs associated with large providers. Any excess costs must be borne by the providers themselves and are payable to the certification body. Subsidies are offered for direct assessment costs, not those incurred in preparation for applications, etc.
- 5 'Standard' Part A assessment costs are estimated at £6,000. 'Standard' Part B assessment costs are estimated at £1,500, on the basis that they are taken with a Part A assessment.
- 6 An additional registration fee is required where a provider takes a Part B separately from its Part A assessment. However this additional fee is only required for the first Part B assessment where several Part B assessments are being taken at the same time.

- 7 Part B assessments will only be subsidised where these align with the sector specific areas in which a provider holds CoVE status, in good standing.
- 8 Subsidies are offered on a one-time-only basis.
- 9 In order to benefit from the subsidy a CoVE must have completed the assessment process and received a certification decision during the period after their original CoVE status expires (assessment subsidy period). See table 1 below.
- 10 A provider that holds CoVE status may register for the TQS before its assessment subsidy period begins but must confirm with the LSC that its CoVE subsidy is available before proceeding with registration.
- 11 Please note that no subsidies will be payable after March 2010 under any circumstances.

CoVE in suspension

- 12 CoVEs that are subject to 'suspension' during their 12 months subsidy period are able to register for the TQS, providing they meet TQS eligibility criteria, but will not be eligible to apply for the subsidy.

CoVE expiry dates and subsidy periods

- 13 Subsidy periods for Pathfinder to Round 4 CoVEs have now expired and are no longer available.
- 14 Subsidy periods for Round 5 and Round 6 CoVEs are still active but as the registration deadline to access these CoVE subsidies has now passed (31st May 2009), no new CoVE subsidy claims can be made against CoVEs awarded in these Rounds.
- 15 Subsidy periods for Rounds 7, 8 and 9 CoVEs are still open but providers wishing to access a CoVE subsidy must formally complete registration for TQS assessment with a Certification Body by 31st August 2009. To then receive the subsidy against their TQS assessment costs providers must also complete the TQS assessment process, in full, by 31st March 2010.

Table 1 original CoVE status expiry and subsidy table

CoVE Round	Original CoVE status expires	Revised CoVE status expires	Assessment subsidy period (period in which assessment process must be completed in order to access LSC subsidy)
Pathfinder to round 3 inc.	Up to May 2007	End July 2008	Subsidy period expired Subsidy no longer available
Round 4	September 2007	September 2008	Subsidy period expired Subsidy no longer available

CoVE Round	Original CoVE status expires	Revised CoVE status expires	Assessment subsidy period (period in which assessment process must be completed in order to access LSC subsidy)
Round 5	April 2008	April 2009	April 2008 – 31 December 2009 * Complete registration with selected Certification Body by end May 2009 Application by end August 2009
Round 6	September 2008	September 2009	September 2008 – 31 December 2009 * Complete registration with selected Certification Body by end May 2009 Application by end August 2009
Round 7	March 2009	March 2010	** March 2009 - end of March 2010 Register by end August 2009
Round 8	September 2009	** September 2010	** March 2009 - end of March 2010 Register by end August 2009
Round 9	December 2009	** December 2010	** March 2009 - end of March 2010 Register by end August 2009
<p>* Note on Round 5 & 6: no LSC subsidy for assessment costs will be paid if the first stage of registration has not been completed by March 31st 2009. Contact 0845 225 1310 before March 30th 2009 for more information.</p> <p>** Note on Rounds 7, 8 & 9: no LSC subsidy for assessment costs will be paid after March 2010; CoVEs from rounds 7, 8 & 9 will have to register before 31 August 2009 in order to claim their subsidies. Note there is no limit to the number of registrations that can be made but costs are charged for each assessment and the LSC CoVE subsidy is only offered once.</p>			

Eligibility for application

- 16 All organisations seeking assessment should be registered with the UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP); further information is available at their website www.ukrlp.co.uk
- 17 All organisations must have been trading, and delivering training and development solutions to employers, for at least 12 months at the point of registration.
- 18 There are no restrictions set in terms of the track record, or size and scope of business with employers. We would though advise those with a very limited scale and/or history of working with employers to think carefully before applying, as it is unlikely that they will have a sufficient evidence base to demonstrate performance against the TQS's requirement.

Eligibility for assessment and certification

- 19 A number of eligibility conditions are set for organisations wishing to be assessed, or eventually certificated under the TQS. The conditions have been laid down to protect the TQS rather than to exclude providers. See www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk for full details.

All organisations

- 20 All organisations must declare their financial condition to be stable and sustainable and provide any supporting documentation as requested to demonstrate this.
- 21 All organisations must declare if they have been served with an Improvement Notice or other instrument by the Health and Safety Executive within the last 2 years.
- 22 All organisations must provide two specific named references for whom they have delivered training and development solutions within the last 2 years.

Special conditions for organisations in receipt of public funds

- 23 All organisations receiving funding which requires their involvement in the Ofsted (and formerly, ALI) grading and inspection regime will have to make available their latest inspection report.
- 24 Where an organisation is currently under a 'minimum levels of performance notice to improve' from the Learning and Skills Council, this will preclude them from registering for assessment under Part B of the TQS if that notice is in the same sector subject area as they wish to apply for TQS Part B certification. Where notices to improve constitute more than 24% of their total provision this will preclude them from registering for assessment for Part A of the TQS. Where this means that a CoVE's ability to register for the TQS falls outside their 12 months subsidy period then this will mean that it has missed its opportunity to receive the subsidy.
- 25 Where an organisation holds an organisational ('leadership and management') grade of 4 or 5 (pre 2007 inspection regime), this will preclude them from registering for assessment for Part A of the TQS. Where this means that a CoVE's ability to register for the TQS falls outside their 12 months subsidy period then this will mean that it has missed its opportunity to receive the subsidy.
- 26 Where an organisation holds a broad sector subject area grade of 4 or 5 (pre 2007 inspection regime), this will preclude them from registering for assessment under Part B of the TQS for any linked sector. Where this means that a CoVE's ability to

register for the TQS falls outside their 12 months subsidy period then this will mean that it has missed its opportunity to receive the subsidy.

- 27 Where an organisation has a Learning and Skills Council Provider Financial Assurance rating, it is obliged to make this known in declaring its financial health.

Conditions for holding certification

- 28 If an organisation wishes to hold and make known its certification under the TQS, then it agrees to be bound by the Code of Conduct published for certified providers, as may be updated from time to time as the owners of the TQS determine. See www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk for details.
- 29 If an organisation wishes to use its certification by public display of the badge, then it must adhere to the terms for the use of that badge at all times and in all the ways that it might be used.
- 30 If an organisation wishes to use its certification by public display of a badge or any other form of publicity, then it must only do so within the scope of organisation as was submitted for assessment.
- 31 Where the owners of the TQS deem a certified organisation to be in breach of the Code of Conduct, then an organisation must consent to any penalties, including removal of the badge, as the owners determine through their proper decision making processes.