

Smart Awards Level 3 in SA030 Fire Stopping Installation

Qualification Specification

SMART AWARDS
Awarding Platform for Smart Qualifications

Version Number	Date	Purpose of Change	Classification	Sign Off
V2.0	08 July 2025		Public	Marc Henson
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Introduction

Fire stopping is part of the passive fire protection for a building and is the practice of reinstating fire compartmentation or barriers that have been penetrated. It is important that suitable products offering equivalent fire protection are used. The purpose is to prevent or slow down the spread of fire and smoke and keep it within zones or compartments, to prevent escape routes from becoming smoke logged to facilitate escape.

This qualification prepares learners in fire stopping installations. It provides learners with the skills, knowledge, and understanding of how service penetration seals work and their place in the wider passive fire protection system including legislation and guidance associated with fire stopping.
This qualification covers one module:

- Fire Stopping Installation and penetration seals

Key Information	
Name	Smart Awards Level 3 in SA030 Fire Stopping Installation
Accreditation	This qualification is approved by: • Ofqual: Qualification number: 610/3244/X
Level	3
Duration	1 day
Guided Learning Hours (Ofqual)	8
Time/Notional Learning Hours (Qualifications Scotland Accreditation)	
Total Qualification Time	10
RQF – Ofqual Credit. Credit value represents the size of a unit which is determined by the learning time. One credit = 10 hours of notional learning	1
Age	This qualification is available to anyone aged 16 or over who can reach the required standard.
Qualification type	Vocationally Related Qualification
Smart Awards product area	Safety Qualifications
Sector subject area	6.1 Digital technology (practitioners)
Certification	This qualification is valid for a period of three years from the date of certificate issue. To remain compliant and eligible to work on telecommunications networks, individuals must renew their qualification before the expiry date.
Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS)	This qualification is fully aligned with the requirements of the Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS). Successful completion of this qualification is recorded within the NOPS system, ensuring operatives are

	visible and verifiable to employers and site access systems across the industry.
Prerequisites and entry requirements	There are no formal entry requirements and Smart Awards will not restrict access on the grounds of prior academic attainment, employment, geographic location, or any other grounds. There are no barriers to access or progression, supporting inclusivity and equal opportunity for all learners. Learners must have a basic understanding of the English language for regulated qualifications that are approved by Ofqual or Qualifications Scotland Accreditation.
Mandatory units and optional routes to completion	Learners must complete the Fire Stopping Installation unit in full to achieve this qualification. No optional units or routes are available.
Additional requirements to achieve this qualification	None.
Methods of assessment	The aim of the assessment is to ensure successful learners have the skills, knowledge and understanding to safely carry out fire-stopping installation and building penetration sealing in accordance with legislative requirements and industry good practice. Assessment guidance, assessor requirements and additional qualification documentation are supplied to approved Smart Awards centres via Quartz.
Theory test	Learners are required to pass a 25-question multiple-choice test, with questions randomly selected from a secure question bank to ensure comprehensive coverage of all the knowledge-based assessment criteria. The test is timed, and learners will have 40 minutes to complete it. All multiple-choice tests are conducted online via the Smart Awards online assessment platform.
Practical assessment	During the practical assessment, the learner will demonstrate competency when performing Fire Stopping Installation and penetration sealing. The learner will have 60 minutes to complete the practical assessment.
Grading	Learners will be graded (fail or pass) on an achievement or non-achievement basis. The final grade will be determined by collective performance in the two assessment tools (theory and practical). Learners are required to achieve both the theory and practical assessments to achieve the qualification. • Theory - To achieve a pass, 80% or more is required • Practical - If one major fault is given the learner will automatically fail • Learners must receive fewer than thirteen minor faults to pass the practical assessment If there are major health and safety failures due to learners' actions or understanding, the assessment must be stopped. The learner should be taken to a suitable area, told why the assessment has been stopped and informed that the assessment has been recorded as a fail.

	Guidance on the major failures that should result in stopping the assessment is provided in the practical assessment.
Reasonable adjustments and special considerations	Smart Awards approved centres that have learners with specific requirements should refer to the Smart Awards Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and Procedure. This document outlines the support available to ensure fair access to assessments. It can be found on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk.
Recognition of Prior Learning	Smart Awards is committed to supporting Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and has established a dedicated policy and set of procedures to guide and assist approved centres in its implementation. The full policy is available on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk.
Required resources and site requirements for delivering this qualification	To ensure a safe and effective learning and assessment environment, the following site requirements must be met for the delivery of the SA030 Fire Stopping Installation: • Access to a suitable training area that simulates real-world telecoms environments. • A safe area which allows for the installation of cables which will be routed through ceilings, floors and walls/partitions. The cables will need to be fixed horizontally and vertically using approved fire safe fixings and routed through holes of varying sizes. • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn by all learners and assessors, including safety helmets, high-visibility clothing, gloves, and appropriate footwear. • The site must comply with current health and safety regulations, including safe access/egress, signage, and emergency procedures. • Adequate first aid provision must be available on-site throughout the training and assessment period. • The site must provide access to classroom or indoor facilities for the delivery of theoretical content and the completion of the online multiple-choice assessment.

Qualification Structure

The level 3 Fire Stopping Installation qualification consists of one mandatory unit, which learners must complete to achieve the qualification. Attainment at Level 3 demonstrates the learner's ability to select and use relevant knowledge, skills and procedures to complete well-defined tasks and address straightforward problems, taking responsibility for their work and exercising autonomy and judgement subject to overall direction or guidance.

Smart Awards level 3 in SA030 Fire Stopping Installation • Ofqual: Qualification number: 610/3244/X								
Minimum TQT for this pathway = 10 Minimum number of credits = 1 Minimum number of units = 1			Minimum number of GLH = 8 Minimum assessment time = 1.5 Other learning time = 2					
Unit Number	Unit title	Level	M/O	GLH	ASS	OTHER LEARNING	TQT	CREDITS
H/650/8443	Fire Stopping Installation	3	M	8	1.5	2	10	1

Learner Support and Assessment Conditions

Learners will have access to support throughout the training period via their trainer. Trainers are responsible for ensuring that each learner is adequately prepared and competent before presenting them for assessment.

No support or assistance may be given to the learner during either the theory or practical assessments, to maintain the integrity and validity of the qualification.

Qualification Objectives and Requirements

This qualification confirms that the learner has demonstrated the required competence when installing fire stopping and penetration seals. To successfully obtain this qualification, the learners will need to demonstrate the knowledge and ability requirements set out in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Unit Title:	Smart Awards Level 3 SA030 Fire Stopping Installation
Unit Level:	3
Unit Credit Value:	1
Unit Reference Number:	H/650/8443
NOS	COSVR353 Install fire-stopping and penetration seals

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know the regulations and standards applying to fire-stopping installation and building penetration sealing.	1.1. Describe the regulations, standards and legislative requirements applying to fire-stopping installation and building penetration sealing. 1.2. Describe the different types of fire-stopping products and their use. 1.3. Assess the importance of different fire-stopping products, including penetration sealing systems, linear gap seals and cavity barriers. 1.4. Describe how service penetration seals work and their place in the wider passive fire protection system. 1.5. Interpret the legal responsibilities for health and safety when carrying out fire-stopping installations and building penetration sealing. 1.6. Interpret the implications of the Building Regulations (England and Wales) and associated legislative requirements on safe site working. 1.7. Determine the scope and limitations of fire-stopping systems.

2. Be able to implement safe site working practices.	2.1. Assess the hazards and risks associated with the working area and the proposed work. 2.2. Use drawings, specifications and work instructions to determine the requirements for the installation. 2.3. Apply contract information, fire performance documentation/certification and manufacturers' instructions to carry out the work to the required specification. 2.4. Apply safe working practices in accordance with relevant legislation and industry good practice. 2.5. Check the work site is cleared and left in a safe and satisfactory condition. 2.6. Carry out work to minimise environmental damage.
3. Be able to use tools and equipment to support fire-stopping installation and building penetration sealing.	3.1. Demonstrate how to correctly operate access equipment according to suppliers' instructions. 3.2. Use the correct personal protective equipment. 3.3. Demonstrate good manual handling techniques. 3.4. Carry out pre-work tool and equipment checks. 3.5. Use hand tools, power tools and equipment safely. 3.6. Work safely at height using appropriate access equipment. 3.7. Ensure tools, equipment and materials are removed from the site and stored safely and securely.

4. Know the requirements for fire-stopping installation and building penetration sealing.	4.1. Describe the requirements for agreeing on the installation of cable and equipment with the relevant person(s). 4.2. Assess the key safety factors to be considered before and when drilling into a building. 4.3. Describe the requirements for restoring fire performance, weatherproofing and, where applicable, soundproofing following the installation of service penetrations, including the requirement to complete fire stopping and weatherproofing on the same calendar day where applicable. 4.4. Distinguish between the cables, materials and safe systems of work used to maintain fire compartmentation, weatherproofing and, where applicable, soundproofing. 4.5. Interpret the key factors and safety requirements in installing internal and external cables to the fabric of the building. 4.6. Describe the role of compartment walls and their role in the wider fire protection of the building. 4.7. Describe the role of the penetration seal system. 4.8. Determine the actions that must be undertaken before installing tested penetration seal systems: pre-installation planning/pre-installation documentation/pre-installation product checks. 4.9. Distinguish between the roles and responsibilities of the competent person, qualified supervisor, responsible person and principal duty holder. 4.10. Describe the purpose of labelling completed fire-stopping installations. 4.11. Describe how to carry out a temporary fire-stopping installation. 4.12. Recognise specific requirements for structures of special interest. 4.13. Interpret the legislative requirements and conditions applicable to fire-stopping installations and building penetration sealing in Higher-Risk Buildings (HRBs) and Non-Higher-Risk Buildings (Non-HRBs). 4.14. Describe the documentation, approval, completion and notification requirements applicable to fire-stopping installations and building penetration sealing.

5. Be able to carry out the installation of fire-stopping products and building penetration sealing.	5.1. Check the area where fire-stopping is to be installed for existing fire-stopping issues and report or escalate issues. 5.2. Check safety precautions before drilling. 5.3. Carry out drilling activities safely and without damaging the property. 5.4. Install cables through the fabric of the building in accordance with safe working practices. 5.5. Carry out fire-stopping and building penetration sealing using approved and authorised materials. 5.6. Prepare and install fire-stopping and building penetration sealing products in accordance with working instructions and manufacturers' instructions. 5.7. Carry out safe work practices relating to the method/area of work and materials used. 5.8. Select and justify the correct products or systems for installation into fire penetration sealing projects. 5.9. Calculate quantity, length, area, and wastage associated with fire-stopping penetrations. 5.10. Prepare and install fire-stopping to voids, gaps, and openings within fire-resisting ceiling, floor, and wall installations. 5.11. Prepare and install fire-stopping around service penetrations, including plastic pipes, metal pipes, insulated pipes and cables, linear gaps, cable trunking, cable trays, ducts (with or without fire dampers), large blank openings and switch boxes. 5.12. Install batts, pillows, plugs/blocks, mortars/compounds, foam seals/slabs/strips, sealants, stone wool and fibre barriers, collars/pipe wraps, and proprietary systems. 5.13. Record and label fire-stopping and building penetration sealing activities. 5.14. Carry out post-installation checks. 5.15. Store fire-stopping materials in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, paying attention to temperature and shelf life. 5.16. Check the work site is cleared after the work ends and is left in a safe and satisfactory condition in accordance with health and safety regulations and good housekeeping practice.