



Malta
Further & Higher
Education Authority

GYPSUM BOARD INSTALLER – MQF/EQF LEVEL 3 INFORMATION HANDBOOK

ON

**The process of validation of informal and non-
formal learning for Gypsum Board Installers**

The Assessment Board:

The Assessment Board is appointed by the Minister responsible for Jobsplus by means of Article 26 of the Employment and Training Services Act 2018 to ascertain proficiency or competency in a particular occupation.

This handbook describes the competences that candidates need to possess before sitting for the Gypsum Board Installer validation process. Successful candidates acquire an *Award as Gypsum Board Installer* pegged at Level 3 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and also the European Qualifications Framework and which is endorsed by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA).

Eligibility:

Candidates who are interested in acquiring the *Award as Gypsum Board Installer* can apply for their knowledge, skills and competences to be assessed, recognised and validated if they possess the necessary competences and skills as defined in this handbook.

The prospective candidate must have **3 years' experience** in the respective field. This is in line with the S.L. 607.02 of 2012 which regulates the Validation of Informal and Non-formal Learning process. Prior to the assessment candidates need to present an official Employment History to confirm the years of experience to the Assessment Board. Candidates applying for the Skill Card through the Building Industry Consultative Council (BICC) are exempt from submitting the Employment History.

The Assessment Board is free to contact the Institution and/or referee at will in order to confirm experiences and training claimed by the candidate.

Initial Assessment Plan:

The Assessment Board will conduct an induction session for candidates interested in acquiring the *Award as Gypsum Board Installer* and review the portfolio and the experience presented to plan the appropriate assessments according to the individual's experience and needs. During the induction session, the candidate is also instructed on how to collect evidence used as a proof of their practical experience.

Evidence sources may include:

- Work Activity
- Witness Testimony
- Health & Safety Documents/ Reports/ Procedures
- Photographic Evidence / Risk Assessments / Instructions
- Work-based confirmation of evidence not observed by assessor.

Assessment Criteria:

The Assessment Criteria for the validation process are based on the National Occupational Standards. Following is an abstract of the list of competences that the candidate must possess prior to applying for the validation process. For further information you can download the National Occupational Standards from the following link:

<https://qualifications.mfhea.gov.mt/#/more-database/a31c6a68-25f2-42b0-a375-c7686456a343>

GBI301: Apply Occupational Health and Safety during Work-Practices

The candidate must have the necessary knowledge and skills to:

1. Carry out safe working practices to prevent hazards and to ensure the safety of oneself, workers and members of the public.
2. Carry out safe working practices when using appropriate equipment and materials to prevent damages to work areas and injuries to oneself and 3rd parties.
3. Carry out the safe erection, use and dismantling of simple access platforms less than 2m high.
4. Ensure that the scaffolding is safe to use.
5. Set up safety barriers around a work environment hazard to protect colleagues and members of the public.
6. Use protective clothing and safety equipment according to specifications issued by manufacturers and know the whereabouts of first-aid equipment.
7. Use, handle and store materials hazardous to health in a safe manner.
8. Carry out a risk assessment to cover the job assigned and the working area.
9. Locate and switch-off temporary or fixed electrical switch gear, systems isolating valves as instructed in the health and safety procedures.

GBI302: Identify Systems, Equipment and Components

The candidate must have the necessary knowledge and skills to:

1. Distinguish between type of gypsum backing boards, core boards, exterior boards, soffit boards, gypsum ceiling boards, fire retardant gypsum boards, moisture resistant gypsum boards and any other type of boards (excluding timber).
2. Distinguish between drying type joint compound, setting tape joint compound, skim coat wall primer, joint tape, paper tape, fiberglass tape and any other ancillary materials.
3. Distinguish between a variety of metal furring, beams, perimeter channels and the like.

GBI303: Reading of Drawings and Calculations

The candidate must have the necessary knowledge and skills to:

1. Read and interpret simplified plans and specifications to select type of gypsum installation materials.
2. Read and interpret building drawings to assist in establishing important building datum grids and levels.
3. Calculate the quantities of required gypsum sheets and fittings to meet work schedules.
4. Calculate the quantity of consumables required to meet work schedules.
5. Check and investigate deviations, misalignments against tolerances given.

GBI304: Setting Out and Installation of Gypsum Boards

The candidate must have the necessary knowledge and skills to:

1. Prepare walls with asphalt strips and other moisture barriers as instructed by your supervisor.
2. Measure, mark and cut to size gypsum boards with appropriate equipment.
3. Interpret instructions and install single and multi-layer configurations.
4. Install gypsum boards around columns leaving a gap as instructed in specifications.
5. Set out furring profiles with equal spacing in between to meet installation specifications.
6. Set out datum grid lines and levels to lay frames within specified tolerance.
7. Set structural frames around doors and windows while noting and correcting any skewed dimensions as necessary.
8. Assemble and use appropriately access working platforms.
9. Install frames to meet specified tolerance such as joint alignment, level alignment, vertical alignment at corners and within bays, and lateral alignment.
10. Perform paper joint treatment and surface preparation, installation of corner beads, trim and control joints.
11. . Perform hand and mechanical finishing with setting-type and drying-type compounds.
12. Carry out repairs of damaged gypsum boards.
13. Use the spirit level, plumb line, straight edge, builders square, laser instruments and other levelling equipment to set out work.

14. Check rooms and shafts for skewed misalignments.
15. Set cavity insulation where necessary.
16. Use vacuum, wetting agents and continuous ventilation appropriately to control dust.
17. Check traceability of data sheets, sound and fire-retardant material certificates to material supplied and installed.

Mode of Assessment:

A candidate will be assessed on all the above listed competences. Assessment will be made up from different components, namely:

A. Practical Work

Practical work could be assessed by a task created to simulate the work environment. During the practical test a candidate will be asked to perform a number of tasks in line with the assessment criteria. Assessment can either be held in a simulated workshop on Jobsplus premises or on site. Information on the assessment venue will be provided by Jobsplus prior to the assessment. Multiple sessions might need to be scheduled.

B. Knowledge and Understanding

Candidates will be assessed on knowledge and understanding orally during an interview and in writing through a written test paper.

C. Interview to verify product evidence and supplementary evidence

During the interview the Board will continue assessing candidates in relation to their knowledge, skills and competences in the respective occupation. Candidates will need to present a portfolio which should contain their CV, the Reference Letter/s and any photographic evidence, workbooks or logbooks to illustrate their work.

To successfully pass from the assessment, candidates need to proof their competences in all enlisted criteria as defined in the National Occupational Standards. Following assessment candidates will receive a formal result slip issued by Jobsplus in collaboration with MFHEA. The result slip will indicate whether the candidate has obtained a Pass or a Fail in all criteria. Nonetheless persons who fail any of these criteria will have the possibility to sit for a re-sit.

Resits:

Candidates who do not pass from any of the enlisted criteria will be guided for further development in the failed criterion/criteria.

The areas of further development may include:

- Health & Safety Course (Safety Card)
- MCAST / Jobsplus Training Programmes
- On-Site Training
- Evidence of Training

The failed criterion/criteria will be communicated in the result slip issued by Jobsplus. Date, time and venue of re-sit would be communicated to the candidate by Jobsplus. The candidate will be guided by the Assessment Board with respect to the areas for improvement prior to the re-sit.

Appeals:

Candidates who fail the assessment and wish to contest the decision taken by the Assessment Board can submit a formal request for further feedback to Jobsplus. An appeal can be lodged within 10 working days from the result slip issued by Jobsplus. In the eventuality that the candidate's final result is changed following the appeal, a new result will supersede the previous one.