

Consultation Questionnaire on Green Deal National Occupational Standards for those working with Older, Traditional and Vulnerable Buildings

Introduction

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has commissioned Asset Skills to develop National Occupational Standards (NOS) for those practitioners introducing energy efficiency measures into older, traditional and vulnerable buildings as part of the Green Deal initiative or equivalent programmes. Asset Skills needs to set up a technical working group to identify what these additional skills are, drawn from a wide range of expert bodies and individuals. It is important to stress that these are separate specialist standards and do not form part of the existing Green Deal Advisor standards and qualifications.

The standards are relevant to a wide range of practitioners across the built environment disciplines, including Green Deal Advisors and surveyors wishing to provide proof of specialist skills in this area. With between 15–30% of the building stock falling into the category of older, traditional or vulnerable, such proven expertise will assist in the selection of the most appropriate energy efficiency measures. There are three draft standards in the suite and the intention is that once approved by the regulators that QCF and SCQF units be developed to allow a specialist free-standing qualification to be developed.

There are three standards in the suite:

ASTSOTV1: Recognise the age, nature and characteristics of older, traditional and vulnerable buildings

This standard is about understanding older, traditional and vulnerable buildings in terms of their age, type of construction, condition and performance in order to influence the selection of appropriate energy efficiency measures.

ASTSOTV2: Evaluate information on older, traditional and vulnerable buildings and the implications of introducing energy efficiency measures

This standard is about evaluating the appropriate options for the introduction of energy efficiency measures based on an accurate identification and evaluation of insulation, ventilation and building performance factors as well as establishing relevant investigative measures

and an evaluation of available information on the building and its thermal performance.

ASTSOTV3: Make recommendations and give advice on the introduction of energy efficiency measures in older, traditional and vulnerable buildings

This standard is about selecting appropriate energy efficiency measures based on a full understanding of the building's current thermal performance and structure. It also involves advising on the installation of the measures and how to maximise thermal performance of the building.

The full NOS can be viewed/downloaded at: <http://www.assetskills.org/QualificationsAndStandards/Consultations/GDOlderTraditionalVulnerableBuildingsNOS.aspx>

We would be grateful if you could spend some time answering the following questionnaire to enable us to finalise the NOS.

Name, Organisation and Job Title:

1. What type of organisation do you represent?

- Government Department
- Conservation Organisation
- Consumer Organisation
- Professional Body
- Accreditation Body
- Green Deal Provider
- Green Deal Advisor
- Training Provider
- Green Deal Installer
- Surveyor
- Other (please specify)

1. What size is your organisation?

- Sole trader
- 1 - 10
- 11 - 49
- 50 - 199

x 200+

1. In which geographical area does your organisation operate?

- England
- Wales
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland

1. Do you agree that the three NOS being proposed cover all the additional specialist competences needed to work with older, traditional and vulnerable buildings within Green Deal and other equivalent programmes?

Yes

No

If No – which amendments (additions, deletions, changes of emphasis etc) would you propose to the number and nature of the overall standards?

2. Please select specific units you would like to comment on and provide (as appropriate) feedback on the: completeness and accuracy of treatment; the title; performance criteria; knowledge; language and terminology used. Please use the reference numbers provided in the draft NOS document:

Unit Reference: ASTOTV1 Recognise the age, nature and characteristics of older, traditional and vulnerable buildings	
Component	Comment/suggestion (wherever possible please provide preferred alternative wording)
Completeness	Very good, with one significant query: many OTV buildings will be of vernacular construction, requiring particular knowledge of regional materials, variations and characteristics – notably timber-frame (exposed or concealed, with wattle-and-daub / plaster or brick infill, or weatherboarded – Essex/ E Anglia); cob; clay bat; chalk block. Specific knowledge of local / regional vernacular construction needs to be encouraged and recognised.
Accuracy	Good
Title	Good

Performance Criteria (Please specify P number)	P2 amend and add P2 “all” in place of “the” materials P2.4 ...windows, doors, and reveals P2.6 foundations (or lack of them), ground conditions, and drainage P4.1 ..internal moisture vapour, damaged services, external ground conditions and drainage
Knowledge (Please specify K number)	K2.4 ..windows, doors, and reveals add: K2.6 foundations (or lack of them, ground conditions, and drainage
Language	Good
Terminology	Good
Other Comments	Generally very good. High level of experience and professional expertise required. See comments above on completeness.

Unit Reference: Unit Reference: ASTOTV2: Evaluate information on older, traditional and vulnerable buildings and the implications of introducing energy efficiency measures	
Component	Comment/suggestion (wherever possible please provide preferred alternative wording)
Completeness	Good, but needs reference to local / regional vernacular (see comments on ASTOVT1), and an additional focus on identifying building-specific opportunities for energy saving
Accuracy	Good
Title	Add "with reference to the characteristics of the specific building"

<p>Performance Criteria (Please specify P number)</p>	<p>Amend P1 “identify and rank in order of potential least impact the range”; add “in general, and to materials and construction types characteristic of the area where you work.” Add P1.1 identify building-specific opportunities for energy saving measures (e.g. secondary glazing; reinstatement of internal or external shutters where there is evidence for these) Amend P.8 ...’could change the fabric, appearance and character...” Amend P.9 .. “how they, and the repairs needed, affect the choice...” Amend P11 requirements “with particular reference to national and local designations (Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Buildings of Local Interest), to the need for Planning Permission or Listed Building Consent, and to the special consideration for traditional and historic buildings in national Building Regulations (for England, paras 3.6 to 3.14 inclusive of Parts L1B and L2B).</p>
<p>Knowledge (Please specify K number)</p>	<p>K1 add “in general, and to materials and construction types characteristic of the area where you work” Add K1.1 potential opportunities for energy saving measures offered by buildings characteristic of the area where you work Amend K.8 “could change the fabric, appearance and character...” Amend K.9 “how they, and the repairs needed, affect the choice..” Amend P.11 requirements “with particular reference to national or local designations (Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Buildings of Local Interest), to the need for Planning Permission or Listed Building Consent, and to the special consideration for traditional and historic buildings in national Building Regulations (for England, paras 3.6 to 3.14 inclusive of Parts L1B and L2B).</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p>Terminology</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p>Other Comments</p>	<p>Generally very good. High level of competence / experience needed.</p>

Unit Reference: ASTOTV3 Make recommendations and give advice on the introduction of energy efficiency measures in older, traditional and vulnerable buildings	
Component	Comment/suggestion (wherever possible please provide preferred alternative wording)
Completeness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not complete: does not cover repairs needed to ensure that energy efficiency measures are effective. 2. There is a risk of this being read as a “standalone” Standard. It must be absolutely unequivocal that specialist advisers and installers have to meet all 3 OTV Standards
Accuracy	Good, subject to above
Title	Good
Performance Criteria (Please specify P number)	<p>P1: add P1.4 the repairs needed to enable installation of the measures under consideration</p> <p>Amend P2 “..selected, their implications, and any repairs needed to enable them”</p> <p>Add P3.3 specific design, installation or operational features used to minimise impacts of the chosen energy efficiency measures on the building</p> <p>P.4 amend “identify and advise on resolving required consents...”, add “..compliance, including the special consideration in national Building Regulations for traditional and historic buildings”</p> <p>P.5 add “of measures, any repairs needed to enable them, and any works needed to protect the building or its features.”</p>
Knowledge (Please specify K number)	<p>K1: add K1.4 as P1.4 above</p> <p>K2 amend as P2 above</p> <p>Add K3.3 as P3.3 above</p> <p>K4 amend “required consents, approvals and other relevant regulatory compliance including Planning Permission, Listed Building Consent, and the special consideration for traditional and historic buildings in national Building Regulations (for England, paras 3.6 to 3.14 of Parts L1B and L2B), and how to explain them to customers”</p> <p>K5 add as P5 above</p>
Language	Good
Terminology	Good

Other Comments	See comments on completeness, above.
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3. Please provide any further comments below

These draft NOS will have a vital role in joining up standards for energy efficiency and building conservation. There may be overlaps with (and potential for cross-referencing to) the corresponding current NOS for Planning Conservation and Building Control. These should be explored to maximise the potential “pool” of specialist advisers.

Members of the (2000+) Institute of Historic Building Conservation (www.ihbc.org.uk) have good understanding of both traditional buildings and the regulatory context and will be well placed, subject to appropriate further training, to meet these Standards. So also will be other construction professionals who have completed conservation courses, and /or been accredited in conservation.

I will be very happy to advise further in relation to the above suggestions.

Thank you for your time and expertise in completing the questionnaire.

Please return your response to Lucy Radford by Thursday 28th March 2013
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