

## Purpose Statement

### **ABC Level 3 Certificate in Footwear and Leather NVQ (500/6482/4)**

ABC Awards is at the forefront of developments within the fashion and textiles sector and has a suite of vocational qualifications from Level 1 to Level 4 which reflect the skills that employers and providers are looking. Aspects that are covered range from pattern and grading technology, tailoring, garment technology, pattern production and so much more. By undertaking the ABC Level 3 Certificate in Footwear and Leather you have the opportunity to gain an understanding and appreciation of the skills required to work in this exciting and fast paced industry, along with the knowledge and experience to excel.

ABC Awards is the leading Awarding Organisation for fashion and textiles work-based vocational qualifications.

### **Overview**

The ABC Level 3 Certificate in Footwear and Leather is a work-based qualification designed for adults and young people (16+) who wish to enhance their performance at work and career progression, giving them currency to progress with further learning or employment.

ABC's Footwear and Leather qualifications focus on specific pathways in order to allow learners the choice to specialise in an area that most appeals to them. Pathways cover Apparel, Footwear, Leather and Textiles which cover manufacturing techniques, order processes and the input system. Learners will also master sewing techniques, the use of trimmings in the finishing of garment and how to identify alterations that may be required. The pathways also cover knowledge of materials used in manufacturing and the knowledge of cloth types.

### **Benefits for employees**

Undertaking this qualification allows you to:

- Undertake a flexible vocational learning route into a wide variety of job roles within the Footwear and Leather industry and into higher levels of training and education
- develop knowledge related to the Footwear and Leather industries.
- develop skills in Footwear and Leather production
- demonstrate the achievement of knowledge, skills and understanding needed to carry out a particular role and work in a the field of manufacturing footwear and leather products
- achieve a nationally recognised Level 3 qualification that is vocationally focused and provides an alternative route into higher education.

### **Who could take this qualification? OR who is this qualification designed for?**

All of ABC Awards sewing and textile suite of vocational qualifications have been designed for adults and young people who have an interest in the subject area and are looking to develop work-related skills. This qualification is accessible to those 16 and above.

The ABC Level 3 Certificate in Footwear and Leather is designed primarily for those who work in the sub-sectors of Footwear and Leather goods production, with the main aim of this qualification being to enhance their skills and knowledge. A need for rigorous, employer-led qualifications to support workforce development activity has been identified and this qualification addresses skills gaps identified within the sector.

Specifically the **ABC Level 3 Certificate in Footwear and Leather (NVQ)** is aimed at those learners who work or want to work within the Apparel/Fashion and Textile industry producing footwear and leather goods, as the qualification is primarily used as the competence element of the Advanced Fashion and Textiles Apprenticeship Framework. However, many employers seek to use the qualification to upskill existing employees, to address skills gaps they may have within their business.

Potential job roles that learners could be operating in to complete this qualification are:

<b>Leather Goods</b>	<b>Footwear</b>	<b>Leather Production</b>	<b>Saddlery</b>
Leather goods Team Leader / Supervisor	Footwear Team Leader / Supervisor	Tanner Process Supervisor	Qualified Saddler
Leathergoods Designer	Footwear Designer	Leather Technician / Technologist	Qualified Harness Maker
Pattern Cutter (Manual / CAD)	Shoe Repairer		Pattern Cutter (Manual / CAD)
Sample Machinist	Production Pattern Cutter (Manual / CAD)		Saddlery Team Leader / Supervisor
Leather goods Team Leader / Supervisor	Bespoke Pattern Cutter (Manual / CAD)		Hand Stitcher
	Bespoke Footwear Technician		
	Sample Machinist		

There are no specific qualification requirements onto the **Level 3 (NVQ) Certificate in Footwear and Leather**. However, it would be advisable to have some prior knowledge of the textile industry that might provide useful include:

**Further Education**

- ABC Awards Level 2 Fashion and Textiles portfolio;
- ABC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Apparel, Footwear, Leather or Textile Production (500/6576/2)

**Work-based learning**

- ABC Level 2 NVQ in Footwear and Leather
- ABC Awards Level 2 Certificate in Apparel, Footwear, Leather or Textile Production (500/6576/2)
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Fashion and Textiles (pathways: Leather goods or Footwear or Leather Production or Saddlery).

Alternatively voluntary or unpaid employment in a fashion and textiles role could provide a useful entry onto this qualification. However, to commence the qualification learners must be in work.

### **What does this qualification cover?**

You will cover aspects of health, safety and security at work along with responding to production quality problems.

The additional choice of topics from one pathway of the optional units will support you to develop skills and confirm competence in your particular job role/career choice, for example:

- Footwear and Leathergoods production
- Footwear production
- Handcraft/bespoke/orthopaedic footwear production
- Footwear repair and associated services
- Saddlery
- Leathergoods production
- Leather production

This 32 credit qualification has one 3 credit and one 7 credit mandatory unit and the remaining units are 5-10 credits depending upon unit selection in relevant pathway. The qualification is 100% vocational learning that relates to the competences needed to work in the footwear and leather sector, at Level 3.

The delivery and assessment of the qualification will take place in your workplace. You will produce a portfolio of evidence for example; observations, witness statements, photographs and products produced.

### **What could this qualification lead to?**

#### **Will the qualification lead to employment, and if so, in which job role at which level?**

Career development into higher level job roles for those successfully achieving the ABC Level 3 (NVQ) Certificate in Footwear and Leather could be:

- New Product Development Manager\*
- Technical Manager (Production)\*
- Procurement Manager (Apparel and Textile Goods)\*
- Project Scientist
- Fabric Technologist
- Fibre Technologist
- Textile Technical Designer
- Textile Quality Controller
- Research and Development Manager (Textiles and Apparel Goods)\*
- Technical Textile Researcher
- Logistics Manager (Textile Finished Goods)\*
- Marketing Manager (apparel and Textile Goods)\*
- Sales Manager (Apparel and Textile Goods)

### **Saddlery Pathway**

Examples of career development into higher level job roles from this qualification could be in addition to the \* above:

- Society of Master Saddlers (SMS) Qualified Saddler
- Society of Master Saddlers (SMS) Qualified Harness Maker

## **Will the qualification support progression to further learning, if so, what to?**

After you complete the ABC Level 3 Certificate in Footwear and Leather (NVQ), there are a variety of learning opportunities at the next level open to you such as relevant Level 4 programmes of learning e.g. Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas / Certificates, BA Honours Degrees and related professional courses. An example of progression could be:

### **Leather Goods and Leather Production pathways:**

- Bsc (Hons) in Leather Technology or for a more vocational route\*
- ABC Fashion and Textiles : Technical Higher Level Apprenticeship (employers such as ASOS, Johnsons Apparel master, New Look, George at Asda, Matalan, Next, Courtalds, Sainsbury's are engaged amongst other leading retailers and textile manufacturers)
- Cordwainers courses\*

**Footwear pathway** could lead to a Foundation Degree in Footwear or alternatively Cordwainers Footwear courses.

### **Saddlery pathway\***

Further study will be determined by the choice of knowledge qualification pathway if completing this qualification within the Creative SkillsSet Advanced Apprenticeship in Fashion and Textiles (Saddlery) Framework. It may be necessary to gain further Level 3 pathways to become eligible to join The Society of Master Saddlers as a Qualified Saddler, learners also need to have been working for four years since commencing their training. The Saddlery Training Centre runs courses to enable candidates to gain further knowledge and gain more practical experience in Saddle, Bridle, Harness and Side Saddle manufacture as well as courses in repair and restoration.

### **Who supports this qualification?**

(i) Employers

- UK Fashion and Textiles Association (UKFT)

### **Further Information**

Further information on the qualification can be found at:

<http://www.abcawards.co.uk>