



**Qualification Specification**

# STA Level 3 Award in Pool Plant Operations



Version 20.1

©2020



## This qualification is regulated by Ofqual (England)

### STA Level 3 Award in Pool Plant Operations

Qualification Number: 603/2579/3

#### Qualification Structure

This qualification consists of 6 mandatory units

Unit Title	Code	Unit Level	GLH	TQT
Principles of healthy and hygienic pool water	A/616/6613	2	2	3
Principles of pool water testing	R/616/6617	2	3	4
Principles of disinfection, pool chemistry and dosing in pool plant operations	T/616/6612	3	4	5
Principles of mechanical pool plant operations	L/616/6616	3	5	6
Swimming pool heating, ventilation and energy efficiency	F/616/6614	3	3	4
Management practices and health and safety in plant operations	J/616/6615	3	4	5

GLH = Guided learning hours

TQT = Total qualification time

#### Total Qualification Time

27 hours

#### Qualification Delivery

The recommended contact hours for this qualification is 21 hours which includes direct teaching and assessing but excludes breaks. The course may be run over 3 days but can also be delivered over a period of weeks, with the minimum of each training session being 2 hours.

The ratio for this qualification is a maximum of 16 learners to 1 tutor.

## Introduction:

The STA Level 3 Award in Pool Plant Operations provides learners with the skills and knowledge to maintain and operate a pool, spa and interactive water feature plant, ensuring safe, clear and hygienic water.

---

## Qualification Objective:

The objective of the Pool Plant Operations qualification is to enable learners to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding required to ensure the safety of swimmers, users, operators and other persons. The qualification provides the theory behind pool plant operations and maintenance, as well as providing learners with information on best practice principles and information on health, safety and legal responsibilities.

---

## Target Learners

This qualification is for people who have a specific responsibility for pool plant operations, maintaining plant rooms, ensuring safe bather conditions and water testing.

Some examples of sites where this qualification is required include:

- Swimming Pools
  - Sports and Leisure Centres
  - Health Clubs
  - Spas (Including those displayed in retail outlets / distributors / installers)
  - Hotels
  - Holiday Parks
  - Hydrotherapy Pools
  - Schools
  - Parks
  - Lidos
  - Interactive Water Features
  - Swim Schools.
- 

## Progression

The STA Level 3 Award in Pool Plant Operations qualification may be a requirement of a particular job role such as a pool manager. It can also be used as a progression route for job roles such as lifeguards or swimming teachers wishing to progress to a leisure management role.

Following completion of the qualification and gaining experience of running a pool plant learners may want to share their knowledge and experiences by training to become a pool plant tutor.

## Revalidation Requirements

This qualification is valid for a period of 5 years. The learner needs to retake the qualification before the certificate expiry date to remain qualified.

Learners revalidating an STA Level 3 Award in Pool Plant Operations or converting from an equivalent qualification may be able to have a reduction in guided learning hours. The number of guided learning hours needed for revalidations and conversions differs from learner to learner based on their individual experience, skills, knowledge and understanding. Some learners revalidating or converting will not require any guided learning hours whereas others may benefit from the full number of recommended guided learning hours. There is also the option of doing the course via distance learning without any guided learning hours. Learners revalidating or converting should be made aware of the different options.

Regardless of the number of guided learning hours on a revalidation or conversion course the assessment requirements remain the same.

---

## Expired Pool Plant Qualifications

Employers and learners should be aware that there is an increased risk of failing to achieve the required standard if previous certification has expired by a considerable period (HSE defines this as in excess of 1 month). If this is the case, HSE recommends *"it may be prudent to complete a 3-day course"*.

---

## Industry Standards

The Pool Plant Operations qualification meets CIMSPA's employer-led pool plant operative professional standard and follows principles set out in the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group's (PWTAG) code of practice and publication 'Swimming Pool Water'. It follows a range of Health and Safety guidance documents including:

- BS EN 15288-1
- BS EN 15288-2
- HSG 179
- HSG 274
- HSG 282
- NOS SKA PPO1.

## Literacy and Numeracy

Learners must be 16 years of age or above on the first day of the course. It is advisable that learners have a minimum of level 2 in literacy or numeracy.

---

## Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policies

STA have put measures in place for learners requiring additional support whilst undertaking STA courses.

For further information on these, please refer to <https://www.safetytrainingawards.co.uk/policies/reasonable-adjustments-and-special-considerations-policy/>

---

## Grading Format

Pass / Fail

---

## Awarding Organisation Policies

A full list of awarding organisation policies are available on our website: <https://www.safetytrainingawards.co.uk/policies/>

---

## Assessment Methods

This qualification is assessed through a practical demonstration of water testing and completion of a multiple-choice assessment.

All practical elements must be completed and performed independently by the learner without prompting by the tutor or other approved competent person, acting as the assessor (cannot be another learner).

The multiple-choice assessment is to be completed independently by each learner under exam conditions, with the tutor or other approved person, acting as the invigilator (cannot be another learner).

To pass the qualification learners must satisfactorily complete the practical assessment and meet the minimum competency deemed by the minimum pass marks for each unit in the multiple-choice assessment.

Tutors and assessors should refer to the STA pool plant assessment guidance document for the fully detailed assessment process.

## Tutor / Assessor Requirements

All tutors / assessors must have the skills, knowledge and experience to be able to teach / assess and demonstrate the subject.

Each tutor must be approved by Safety Training Awards and provide evidence of:

1. A relevant vocational pool plant operations qualification and/or experience
  2. Attend a STA pool plant tutors course or experience of delivering for another awarding organisation
  3. Maintaining their technical competence within the subject area.
- 

## IQA Requirements

Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs) of this qualification must have knowledge and competency in pool plant operations as well as knowledge and competency in internal quality assurance.

An IQA must hold:

1. An STA Level 3 Award in Pool Plant Operations qualification (or acceptable equivalent) and/or experience
2. Attend a STA IQA training day or hold a recognised internal quality assurance qualification
3. Attend an IQA CPD day.

Note: IQAs cannot quality assure a course for which they were a learner, the tutor and / or assessor.

## Resource Requirements

Course resources:

- STA Pool Plant Operations Resource Manual - Each learner requires the most up to date resource manual to ensure they have access to the most current information relating to the qualification.

Venue:

- Room size: Adequate space for all learners on the course to undertake theory and practical work
- Seats: One per learner
- Writing surfaces - Adequate for each learner to make notes
- Toilets: Separate facilities for male and female learners
- Ventilation - Should be adequate
- Lighting: Should be suitable for reading, combining a mixture of natural and artificial light
- Heating - Should maintain a 'shirt sleeve' environment, minimum temperature 16°C
- Access / Exits: Should be safe, well lit and cater for people with special needs
- Cleanliness: Maintain a clean, tidy and hygienic environment
- Noise: Consider whether there is noise that may distract learners from training

Location:

- Where possible the lecture venue should be in close proximity to the pool plant room.

Minimum requirements:

- Laptop
- PowerPoint presentation
- Projector
- Pool testing equipment: Photometer or comparator - ratio 1:8 (1 to every 8 learners on the course)  
(Sufficient number of tablets and test tubes for the number of learners on the course).

Recommended:

- Dry wipe board
- Flipchart.

---

## Equipment Service and Maintenance

Ensure all electrical equipment is in safe working order, serviced and maintained in line with statutory requirements, such as Portable Appliance Test (PAT), Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER).

Follow manufacturers guidance on regular in-service and ongoing maintenance requirements for all course equipment.

It is important to be aware of the trip hazards associated with electric cables and reduce such risks.