



GQA Level 3 Award in Competence and Understanding in 4-wheel alignment

Qualification Number 610/2372/3

Issue 1: March 2023



GQA, Unit 1, 12 O' Clock Court, Attercliffe Road, Sheffield, S4 7WW
Tel: 01142 720033, Email: Info@gqaqualifications.com,
Website: www.gqaqualifications.com



PERSONAL COMPETENCE SUMMARY

Name		Company/Centre				
Job Title		GQA Registration Number				
UNITS OF COMPETENCE					ASSESSOR SIGNATURE Performance and knowledge assessment completed and supplemented with evidence overtime	DATE
UNIT NUMBER	INT REF	MANDATORY UNITS	LEVEL	CREDIT		
J/650/6554	FWA1	Competence and understanding in 4-wheel alignment	3	4		

RELIABLE EVIDENCE: The forms of evidence available include (mark as appropriate)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Observation in the workplace | ☐ | Assessment of knowledge | ☐ |
| Records of prior experience | ☐ | Witness statement(s) | ☐ |
| Testimonial(s) | ☐ | Photographic evidence | ☐ |
| Work records | ☐ | External testing | ☐ |

Passport Style
Candidate Photo
(Mandatory)

COMPETENCE COMPLETION SIGNATURES

By signing here, the Candidate and Assessor confirm that evidence presented is authentic and that the assessments took place in accordance with the relevant assessment strategy. Details of the assessments and evidence must be recorded in the assessment decision record/summaries at the end of each unit.

	Name and Signature	Date
Candidate		
Lead Assessor		
Internal Verifier		
EQA		

Introduction to the Qualification

Who is this Qualification for?

This qualification is aimed at individuals wishing to prove they have the level and range of knowledge and skills required to interpret data and carry out 4-wheel alignment of road going vehicles. All work must be completed following Industry recognised Safe Working Practices and in accordance with relevant legislation.

candidates for this qualification will primarily be:

- working in motor vehicle repair shops

GQA qualifications are made up of units that have a credit value or credits. This qualification has 1 mandatory unit.

The units are made up of the things you need to know and the things you need to be able to do to carry out your job safely and correctly. These are called Learning Outcomes, and all must be met to achieve the unit.

Unit No.	Int Ref.	Mandatory units	Level	Credit
J/650/6554	FWA1	Competence and understanding in 4-wheel alignment	3	4

Assessment Guidance:

Evidence should show that you can complete all of the learning outcomes for each unit being taken.

Types of evidence:

Evidence of performance and knowledge is required. Evidence of performance should be demonstrated by activities and outcomes, and should be generated in the workplace only, unless indicated under potential sources of evidence (see below). Evidence of knowledge can be demonstrated through performance or by responding to questions.

Quantity of evidence:

Evidence should show that you can meet the requirements of the unit in a way that demonstrates that the standards can be achieved consistently over an appropriate period of time.

Potential sources of evidence:

The main source of evidence for the practical aspects of this unit will be observation of the candidate's performance and knowledge demonstrated during the completion of the unit. This can be supplemented by the following types of physical or documentary evidence:

- Work diaries, Training records, job specifications and documentation, witness testimonies

Underpinning knowledge can be evidenced by either detailed, recorded guided discussions, or written answers supplemented by recorded discussions.

Please Note that photocopied or downloaded documents such as manufacturers' or industry guidance, H&S policies, Risk Assessments etc, are not normally acceptable evidence for GQA qualifications unless accompanied by a record of a professional discussion or Assessor statement confirming candidate knowledge of the subject. If you are in any doubt about the validity of evidence, please contact your GQA External Verifier.

GQA Qualification Implementation Requirements covering Centre Approval, Candidate Assessment and ongoing Quality Assurance

This document indicates the requirements of Approved Centres delivering GQA qualifications and / or units of credit.

1. Equality of Opportunity

Equality of access to fair and valid assessment is necessary for all candidates undergoing assessment. This may mean making reasonable adjustments to normal assessment methods for candidates with particular or special assessment requirements. Candidates work patterns should not become a barrier to assessment, the organisation of which may have to be flexible. In the same way, reasonable adjustment arrangements may be necessary for candidates with a disability. For example, a candidate who is unable, through disability, to produce oral or written evidence, may be allowed to use the method they normally use as a substitute for the required form of communication. Reasonable adjustments need to be approved by GQA.

2. Recognised/Approved Assessment Centres

2.1 Individual centres must be approved by GQA to offer specific qualifications and / or units of credit. A centre may be a single organisation or a partnership of two or more organisations. It may operate at a single location or have satellites. For further details see the GQA booklet “Guide to Centre Approval”. The Centre Approval process is carried out by a GQA approved EQA. Each Centre must maintain a centre file. It is important to be clear what the steps in the assessment process are:

- plan evidence collection and opportunities for assessment
- collect evidence
- judge evidence
- determine whether sufficient evidence has been presented
- make an assessment decision and give feedback to the candidate

NB Any deviation from the norm must be approved by a GQA EQA

2.2 Assessors and Verifiers

All Assessors of candidate performance must be competent, to make qualitative judgements, both in the skills they are assessing and in the assessment of candidates and hold the appropriate Assessor national award. Assessor occupational knowledge related to the qualifications being assessed is essential and must be illustrated to GQA prior to approval.

Internal Verifiers are responsible for the quality assurance of the assessment process within a centre. They should have a relevant occupational background, be competent in internal verification and hold the Internal Verifier national award. It is recommended that Internal Verifiers work towards national recognition of assessor competence.

EQAs are responsible for ensuring accurate and consistent standards of assessment across centres, qualifications, units of credit and over time. They should have a relevant occupational background, be competent in external quality assurance and hold the relevant national external quality assurance award. GQA will approve and licence all individuals involved in the assessment and verification of its approved qualifications and / or units of credit.

Individuals who are working towards the Assessor or Internal Verifier national awards can only be provisionally licensed. The judgement of provisional licence holders will need to be agreed/authorised by a fully qualified and GQA licensed individual who cannot carry out a dual role in relation to a specific candidate.

All GQA Assessors and Verifiers must undertake a minimum of 2 significant CPD activities in both occupational areas and assessment and verification. Reflective CPD records must be maintained and made available to GQA EV's for review.

2.3 Centre Approval, Monitoring Reviews and Quality Assurance

The centre recognition/approval process is the start of a significant part of the awarding body's quality assurance system. The Approval process will begin with an EQA review of centre procedures to ascertain the potential centres ability to deliver GQA qualifications and / or units of credit. Centres will be expected to meet the relevant regulatory authority criteria for delivery of qualifications prior to initial approval; continued compliance with the criteria will be monitored through regular EQA visits. It is recommended that centre reviews are conducted at minimum every six months by a GQA EQA.

New or multi-site centres may be required to undertake quarterly or more frequent EV reviews to ensure that different locations can be seen to satisfy the national requirements.

GQA will ensure that unacceptable barriers relating to the assessment and internal verification of candidates in small companies do not deny recognition of competence to competent young workers. In such circumstances, GQA will demonstrate that its quality assurance procedures remain sufficient and rigorous to ensure that the competence outcomes have standing and credibility in the occupational area.

Enhanced quality procedures to ensure consistency of assessment and verification will be necessary and will include:

- a high level of sampling of assessment decisions N.B. In some instances the EQA may visit each assessment location and qualification / unit of credit candidate (e.g. single candidates dispersed throughout different small companies on government funded programmes)
- an in-depth scrutiny of assessment plans, materials and records
- specific centre guidance aimed at the successful implementation of qualifications and / or units of credit in SMEs via approved centre partnerships. This can include guidance on the quantity and quality of valid, authentic, and transferable evidence expected to be attributed to individual candidates
- ensuring centres are following the requirements prescribed in any appropriate assessment strategies and applicable codes of practice
- the identification and publication of good practice in centres

As part of the Quality Assurance process Proskills require an Enhanced external quality assurance process. This will be in the form of 1 significant underpinning knowledge question answered by the candidate for each unit of the qualification. The questions will be decided by GQA, and guideline answers must be submitted for approval and once approved kept in the Centre File to allow independent assessment

3. Qualification / Unit of Credit Candidates

All candidates must register with a GQA recognised/approved centre. The centre must maintain appropriate candidate personal details for external audit purposes etc.

The centre will provide candidates with advice and guidance on how to prepare for assessment and allocate an Assessor who will assess candidate ability to meet the requirements of the relevant qualifications / unit of credit. It is the candidate's responsibility to demonstrate competence and to do this they must:

- prove they can consistently meet all the qualification and / or unit of credit criteria

- provide evidence from work, that they can perform competently in all the contexts specified in the qualification / unit of credit requirements
- prove that they have the knowledge and understanding required to perform competently, even where they have not provided evidence from the workplace

It is therefore critical that quality evidence is provided in a format to allow the Assessor to make a decision and for the Internal Verifier to audit/verify his/her decision.

4. Evidence

A qualification and / or credit is awarded when a person has achieved the necessary outcomes of the qualification and / or unit of credit.

The specific combination of units necessary to achieve a qualification is detailed in the qualification structure. Certificates of Unit Credit can be awarded when candidates achieve any one, or more, units from the qualification.

The evidence the candidate brings forward is primarily evidence of performance of what he/she can do, not just what he/she knows. The assessment criteria / qualification requirements are described within the qualification and / or unit of credit itself and can incorporate practical skills and knowledge.

The assessor's role is to judge each relevant item of evidence. Each must be judged against the qualification and / or unit of credit requirements. It is not sensible to collect evidence against individual criteria. Nor is it effective. If items of evidence were collected for each of the criteria, the candidate may have to produce many items of evidence, well above the number actually required. GQA recommend holistic assessment.

When judging each item of evidence, the assessor is deciding whether the evidence:

- is authentic – i.e. actually produced by the candidate
- meets the criteria
- relates as appropriate to a context defined within the qualification and / or unit of credit
- confirms that the candidate has the required underpinning knowledge

When the assessor makes a decision about the candidate's competence, he or she examines all the evidence available to determine:

- if the evidence, as a whole, covers all the evidence of achievement

- whether the evidence indicates consistency in competent performance
- whether there is enough evidence on which to base an inference of competence

The answer can only be:

- yes (the candidate is competent)
- no (the candidate is not yet competent)
- there is insufficient evidence to make a decision

Consistency means that the individual is likely to achieve the standard in their work role, in the different activities defined in the qualification and / or unit of credit over time and range of work. The assessor must judge how long a time period is enough to be confident that the candidate can perform reliably to the standard. Unsupported evidence i.e. based on a single assessment/visit will not normally prove consistency.

Performance evidence

Performance evidence can be what the individual actually produces, or the way the individual achieves the standard. One is called product evidence and the other process evidence.

Product evidence is tangible – you can look at it and feel it. Products can be inspected and the candidate can be asked questions about them.

In order to make a fair and objective assessment, the assessor must be able to answer the question: Is there sufficient evidence that the candidate can consistently meet the requirements of the qualification and / or unit of credit? Process evidence describes the way the candidate has achieved an outcome – how they went about it. This may be, for example, the way the quality of products is checked or the way customer complaints are handled. This usually means observing the candidate in action.

Performance evidence may cover a number of outcomes. It makes sense to plan evidence collection so that what the candidate does, in the normal course of their job, can be related to different outcomes and units. The activities that clearly link to the qualification and / or unit of credit requirements are the things to concentrate on when planning evidence collection and assessment and when monitoring the candidate's progress. Look for opportunities in the candidate's job when evidence can be collected against a number of units at the same time.

Performance evidence can be:

- Naturally occurring – evidence produced in the normal course of work. Evidence of this sort is usually of high quality and reliable. It is also cost effective to collect naturally occurring evidence
- Taken from previous achievements – the candidate may be able to bring forward evidence from previous work experience to show that they are still competent to the standard.
- Evidence of prior achievement can be used when it can be shown to support a judgment that the candidate can still achieve the standard. So, the assessor must be satisfied that the evidence of prior achievement is sufficiently reliable to justify saying that the candidate is currently competent.
- Simulated – from circumstances specially designed to enable the candidate's performance to be assessed. Simulation is generally not acceptable.
- The exceptions to this are:
 - o Dealing with emergencies
 - o Dealing with accidents
 - o Certain pre-approved real time simulators
 - o Limited other procedures that cannot be practically performed in the workplace, and for which sufficient evidence can be collected through other means.

NB: It is not always possible or feasible to collect naturally occurring evidence. It is likely that some simulation may be needed, when it may take too long to wait for the evidence to arise e.g. it may be an aspect of performance which occurs infrequently. An example of this may be evidence of how to deal with emergencies i.e. it makes sense to look for evidence from sources other than naturally occurring ones, rather than for, say, waiting for the building to burn down. Centres must obtain GQA EQA approval prior to the use of simulation.

Knowledge evidence

Being able to achieve a standard requires the ability to put knowledge to work. The qualification and / or unit of credit indicates the knowledge each person should use if they are to perform competently.

It should not be necessary to test all of the candidate's knowledge separately; however, any exception to this would be detailed in the relevant Assessment Strategy. Performance evidence could show that the candidate knows what he or she is doing. When this is not the case, or if the assessor is not convinced from the performance evidence, it may be necessary to check the individual's knowledge separately.

Oral or written assessments must clearly provide a suitable means of checking the breadth and depth of an individual's knowledge. Assessors will need to judge the best mix of knowledge evidence according to individual circumstances. Knowledge evidence is useful when deciding the quality of performance evidence, but must not be used in isolation to judge competence or as an alternative to performance evidence. Care must be taken that candidate evidence is auditable and verifiable.

**NB: These Qualification implementation guidelines are generic across the full range of GQA qualifications.
Further guidance on acceptable evidence on each qualification will be found in the Introduction to the
Qualification section of the candidate booklet**

Candidate Declaration

Candidate Name.....

Centre/Company Name.....

Assessor(s) Name(s).....

I acknowledge receipt of this copy of GQA qualification booklet. The unit structure provides information on which units must be achieved to be awarded the qualification. The individual units detail the necessary requirements etc. that I must achieve.

I understand that I will have an important role in preparing for and planning assessments and with guidance from the Assessor.

I will collect and record relevant evidence.

I have been informed of the appeals system, should I want to appeal against any part of the assessment process.

I understand the assessments will be carried out with regard to the company's/centre's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Candidate signature.....

Date.....

Title:	Competence and understanding in 4-wheel alignment						
GQA ref	FWA1	Level	3	Credit value	4	GLH	16
Regulatory ref	J/650/6554						
Unit aims	The aim of this unit is to ensure the candidate has the skills and knowledge required to carry out 4-wheel alignment following manufacturer's technical instructions and in accordance with safe working practices.. This will include the interpretation of vehicle manufacturer technical data to check alignment and make adjustments in accordance with manufacturer's specifications Finally, as this is a competence-based unit, candidates must be assessed on their ability to carry out the 4- wheel alignment process						
Assessment guidance	Assessors for this unit must have verifiable, current industry experience and a sufficient depth of relevant occupational expertise and knowledge. All criteria must be assessed, and evidence must be auditable. The vehicle used for assessment purposes must not be 4-wheel drive, have dynamic suspension, 4-wheel steer or require any specialist equipment for adjustment. Supporting evidence of practical skills must be provided to show consistency in 4-wheel alignment across a range of vehicles over an appropriate period of time.						
Learning outcomes <i>The learner will be able to:</i>	Assessment criteria <i>The learner can:</i>					Evidence Ref No	
1. Understand the purpose and principles of 4-wheel alignment	1.1 Explain what is meant by 4-wheel alignment and why this is important						
	1.2 State what information is required to prepare for and carry out 4-wheel alignment and how to obtain this						
	1.3 List equipment typically used to carry out 4-wheel alignment, including alignment equipment, Vehicle Protection Equipment and Personal Protective Equipment						
	1.4 Explain the process to follow for 4-wheel alignment, including how to make adjustments, to the toe, camber and caster						
	1.5 Explain how to record the findings from the 4-wheel alignment process, what to do with it and why it is important to record this						
2. Be able to prepare a vehicle for 4-wheel alignment	2.1 Obtain relevant and current repair methods/manufacturer's technical data						
	2.2 Carry out required checks before commencing the 4-wheel alignment process, e.g. fluid levels, tyre condition/pressures, steering, suspension, weight loading and ride height						
	2.3 Prepare the work area, vehicle and equipment to carry out 4-wheel alignment measurements in accordance with safe working practices and repair method/technical data .						
3. Be able to carry out the 4-wheel alignment process	3.1 Carry out 4-wheel alignment following repair method/manufacturer's technical instructions and following safe working practices						

	3.2 Check wheel measurements and compare and record the geometry readings, including any variation/deviation from the vehicle specification/technical data.			
	3.3 Visually inspect associated components for wear and/or damage			
	3.4 Report findings in accordance with Organisational procedures			
	3.5 Adjust the components to manufacturer's specifications where required and carry out 4-wheel alignment			
	3.4 Carry out post alignment quality checks and complete documentation/records in accordance with Organisational procedures			
	3.5 Ensure vehicle, work area and equipment are cleaned and made ready for future work			
4. Understand the problems that can occur with 4-wheel alignment	4.1 .Describe problems that can affect the preparation to include: • 2 potential problems with equipment • 2 potential problems with the vehicle • Problems with work area			
	4.2 Explain how to deal with each of the issues identified in 4.1			
	4.3 Explain the implication in relation to ADAS after an adjustment has been made during a 4-wheel alignment			
Assessor comments/feedback				

GQA, Unit 1, 12 O'Clock Court, Attercliffe Road, Sheffield, S4 7WW
Tel: 0114 272 0033/272 0080
Email: info@gqaqualifications.com Website: www.gqaqualifications.com