



GQA

QUALIFICATIONS

news

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GLASS QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

OCTOBER 2004

Regency Glass wins Greater Manchester LSC



Dean Beazant and Wayne Fitzmartin receiving the award from local TV personality Lucy Meacock.

Industry award

Regency Glass are based at Butts Street in Leigh, Greater Manchester and have been trading for over 20 years. The Proprietors are Dean & Darren Beazant, the General Manager is Wayne Fitzmartin. They manufacture high quality double glazed units and toughened glass, also bevel and lead work designs to customer specifications.

Reason for the Award

The company was nominated by Paul Fairhurst from NLTG Ltd for an LSC Industry Award for their commitment and support within the Modern Apprenticeship Scheme. The company have so far put 15 learners through the NLTG MA scheme varying from FMA to AMA. They have also taken advantage of LSC funding to train six Supervisors and these are now working towards a GQA NVQ in Glass Processing.

Paul advised that the General Manager, Wayne Fitzmartin, has overseen the scheme from start to finish and gets fully involved with all aspects of the training. His commitment to the scheme has been second-to-none and has seen the benefits from the achievement of the apprenticeships. Mr Fitzmartin stated, "The company is keen to stay one step ahead of the competition and sees the MA scheme as a way of doing this." It builds a genuine interest in the job and the company, and the learners feel part of the big team. There is also the benefit of a nationally recognised qualification to be achieved."

Staff retention at Regency is very high with a majority of the staff having service records ranging from 10 to 15 years with the company.

Emma McCaffrey and Quinn Glass



Emma McCaffrey, the Centre Co-ordinator at the GQA approved centre, Quinn Glass, has been the subject of a full page feature in the Belfast Telegraph resulting from her work to improve the essential skills within the company.

Quinn Glass have taken account of DFEL research that indicates that small employers could be losing as much as £86,000 per year and bigger employers £500,000 per year through poor essential skills within the workforce. Emma has co-ordinated an essential skills programme with Fermanagh College in addition to co-ordinating the delivery of GQA NVQs. She also delivers some in-company management training and develops initiatives to encourage all Quinn employees to develop themselves.

Schuco

Manufacturer of the Year 2004

Schuco (a GQA approved centre) has won the much coveted 2004 Manufacturer of the Year prize at the Building Awards.

The company won praise from the judges for its innovative, cutting-edge building products and enviable training programme.

The Building Awards is celebrating its 10th anniversary and this year received a record number of entries across all categories. The Manufacturer of the Year Award was slightly different to the majority of the categories with candidates nominated by a panel of specifiers as opposed to entering the award themselves.

Julie Allanson – Female Surveyor

Julie Allanson became the first female from Royal Extrusions, based in Birkenhead, to achieve the level 2 Fenestration Installation and surveying GQA NVQ.

Royal Extrusions Sales Director, Wayne Maycock, stated, "We thought that it would benefit Julie and the company if Julie could undertake training as a surveyor to support the installation work we carry out. We contacted The North Lancs Training Group who were only too pleased to help. Julie has worked with the guidance of her Assessor and with the vastly experienced team at Royal Extrusions to complete this qualification. She has put a lot of good hard work into the portfolio

of evidence she created and has adapted to the on-the-job training like a duck to water."

Julie states, "I have learned a lot over the past months, especially about the different ways of surveying and also the other things on sites that affect the way we do things, going onto sites was a bit daunting at first but I soon got used to them. The guidance from my father and brother whom are both experienced in the sector, and also NLTG, helped tremendously."

GQA Board

The GQA Board is considering the recruitment of a Board Member from the glass related independent training or educational sector. Indications of interest would be welcomed.



GQA to support the 2005 Glassex Challenge

The Glassex Challenge, which made its debut appearance at Glassex 2004, was one of the events most popular feature areas.

Teams from all over the country installed a door, a flat window, a bay window and a conservatory roof, and were judged on speed, finish and health and safety issues. Prizes were awarded each day to the team that achieved the best combined score

across each installation.

GQA recognising the synergy between the aims of Glassex and GQA decided to become the Major Sponsor of the 2005 Glassex Challenge. Events such as this should encourage better standards of work within the sector and increase awareness of standards-based training and qualifications.

Stephen Redman, Glassex Event Manager, is delighted that the GQA has come forward to sponsor the next challenge in 2005 and commented, "Glassex, as the industry's leading event, has a responsibility to help nurture the

future health of the industry. Better standards of work and higher qualifications can only benefit this industry, and the GQA has long recognised this. We are delighted to be working in partnership with the organisation to help encourage high standards of workmanship through the Glassex Challenge."

Potential Installation Teams of the Year should contact Stephen Redman on 020 8277 5000 or go to www.glassex.com to register their interest in taking part in the Glassex Challenge 2005, 13-16 March inclusive at the NEC, Birmingham.

Preston College Construction Services and the Glass & Glazing Sector

Preston College continues to work closely with GQA and since they first commenced work with the Glass & Glazing Sector in 2000 they have successfully supported over 500 candidates, ie these have achieved GQA Level 2 NVQ qualifications or units towards.

Preston College secured funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) with their Glass & Glazing Training Project. The purpose of the current project funding is to encourage employers to invest in staff training and development and to raise standards within the industry via small to medium sized companies (SMEs). Since January 2003 approximately 260 NVQ candidates have been recruited and 23 companies supported by the project.

The college has submitted a new Glazing bid which will be linked to level 2 and level 3 qualifications, the results of this bidding round will be available in late October.

GQA - National Awarding Body

GQA is approved as an awarding body by QCA and SQA.

QCA approval extends to:

Twelve (12) NVQs at Levels 2 and 3

The 'A+V Awards', A1, A2, V1 and V2 at Levels 3 and 4

Vocationally Related Qualifications at Levels 1, 2 and 3

SQA approval extends to:

Twelve (12) SVQs at Levels 2 and 3

British Glass wins Health & Safety Support for the glass industry SMEs through the WSA Challenge Fund

The HSE having previously piloted a Worker Safety Advisor scheme, recognised the real value that the deployment of skilled and knowledgeable safety advisors in small organisations have on the improvement of safety performance.

In light of this, HSE set up a further programme that could deliver similar benefits, but on a much wider scope.

The Federations for the glass industry submitted a proposal and won a financial award to provide support to glass industry SMEs.

The project was launched in August of this year and has since been taken up within the industry. The project provides the following free resources:

- Six days consultancy in Health & Safety
- Dedicated training provision
- Health & Safety audit
- Action planning support
- Tools to help sustain the Health & Safety momentum
- Access to Health and Safety advice

The project has a limited number of places still available and is open to SMEs from all sectors of the glass industry across the UK,



Alison Bettac and David Workman receive their award from Andrew Smith, Secretary of State.

however, preference will be given to the smaller end of the SME sector, but will not preclude other SME organisations from applying.

For further details of the project please contact Alison Bettac Rodgers on 0114 2901850.

Vehicle Sector Receives Central LSC Support

A sector that relies upon glass products, has managed to obtain central LSC funding.

The Society of Motor Manufacturing and Trades (SMMT) says its members need more candidates qualified to NVQ level as well as university graduates. It has started a pilot programme with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to implement national vocational qualifications (NVQs).

The organisations are promoting the NVQ in Business Improvement Techniques (BIT), and will shortly complete a residential training programme for 1,000 NVQ assessors at MG Rover's Studley Castle. Stephen Lilley, the LSC's Sector Strategy Manager for the manufacturing industries explained, "Candidates have to complete an awful lot of evidence forms to demonstrate their understanding of lean techniques so assessors need to understand how these techniques apply to the candidate's company. After this training, they ought to be able to walk into a company and see the difference in the environment. If they can't, then they'll know that, whatever the evidence forms say, the candidate hasn't understood."

Stefan March, Director of SMMT's Industry Forum, has stated, "Being best in Bromsgrove is no longer sufficient. The competition isn't next door or in the next town, it's on the other side of the world."

Perhaps in due course, the sector that manufactures and processes the glass for the original equipment/vehicle manufacturers and the replacement market (and repairs and installs replacement glasses) will eventually access central funding.

GQA 10,000th NVQ Achiever

The 10,000th Glass Qualifications Authority (GQA) NVQ has been awarded to Jamie Langley of J G Manufacturers in West Yorkshire through The Vocational College. Jamie achieved the Glass Processing Level 3 NVQ (Q1052032).

His Modern Apprenticeship NVQ programme was commenced via the GQA Approved Centre, The Vocational College, in February 2002 when Jamie was with another employer. When Jamie moved to J G Manufacturers, the Vocational College had no problems convincing the owner of the company, Joe Grima, of the benefits of continuing his NVQ. Mr Grima commented that it was Jamie's interest in continuing with his personal development that gave him the edge over other applicants.

He recognised that Jamie was determined to develop his skills via the Modern Apprenticeship Framework, funded by the DFES through the National Contracting Service including his NVQ and Key Skills units.

Mr Grima subsequently promoted Jamie to Glass Shop Foreman because of the skills he had developed through the programme, and because of the determination that he showed to develop himself further.

J G Manufacturers is the major supplier of windows and doors to Magnet Joinery and is a rapidly expanding company. The glass shop and the upvc manufacturing side are combined in the same building, but a glass-processing factory is currently being planned with a massive investment in state of the art equipment.

As a consequence of Jamie's commitment to himself and the company, Mr Grima sees him as fundamental to the continued development of the business, and is keen to involve him in all aspects of the development of the new factory, as part of the management team.





Emma Cowking at Harlequin Glass

Emma Cowking is the first female from within The North Lancs Training Group to undertake a formal apprenticeship programme in Glass Processing. The skills she has been developing at Harlequin Glass in Longridge include bevelling and cutting glass, repairing traditional leaded lights and dealing with customers.

Commenting on her work, Emma reports, "I have always wanted to do a practical job which made use of my creative skills, so when this opportunity came up, I went for it. I love working as a glass processor because every day is different."

SSC For The Construction Sector ConstructionSkills

ConstructionSkills has been granted a five-year licence to act as the Sector Skills Council for Construction. ConstructionSkills is a partnership between the Construction Industry Training Board in GB, the Construction Industry Training Board in NI and the Construction Industry Council. The organisation will be responsible for representing employers' skills needs and tackling the skills, productivity and image issues of the industry.

Reformation of Glazing Installation and Maintenance Standards

The Glazing Installation and Maintenance GQA qualifications at Level 2 and 3 are based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) of jointly the CITB and Glass Training Ltd.

The current NVQ/SVQ standards are accredited as GQA qualifications until 31 December 2005. However, due to the need to consult as widely as possible, the Standards Setting Bodies (CITB and GTL) have commenced a standards reformation process, funded by QCA. Dr Alan Leigh is the consultant supporting the project.

The indications are that the next generation of Glazing National Occupational Standards will be in a completely different format to current standards/qualifications.

All active GQA centres approved to offer the current glazing NVQ/SVQ qualifications have been asked to contribute to the project.

If you wish to contribute, contact Dr Alan Leigh, GQA, GTL or the CITB as soon as possible.

New GQA Centres in 2004

Accrington & Rossendale College

Barnsley College

Building Learning (UK) LTD

**Council for Aluminium
in Buildings**

Dianne Smith Associates

Edinburgh's Telford College

Great Yarmouth College

John Howard Assessment Ltd

Kickstart (Liverpool) Ltd

**The Assessment & Training
Company Ltd**

Worcester College of Technology



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