

The BIG GREEN Q

Issue 2
November 2017

News from GQA and its Approved Centres
#BigGreenQ

Welcome to the Big Green Q Newsletter, where we're looking to showcase what's happening in and around the GQA network.

News in this edition includes: an overview of the workshops being held at the 5th GQA Conference, Nationwide Windows and Doors - one of the first fabricators to provide in-house training and a qualification assessment programme, Auto Windscreens employees - embracing their qualifications and proving they are the best in-class at a recent International show, and regular back-page feature - 'GQA Approved Training Centre Profile' where, Sharon Alderton, Total Support Training Centre shares her story.

Also, read about the latest developments with the CSCS Q-card. After 12 months of negotiations, centres can now offer the card to trained and qualified individuals. Read more in the article on the back-page.

We are going to produce this newsletter regularly and keep you up-to-date with GQA news. It would be great, if we could get stories from all GQA approved centres and share your news and successes with the rest of the network.

If you have stories you would like to share, or would like us to write for you, send them or the details to marketing@GQAQualifications.com or steph@insidetheboxmarketing.co.uk.

Mick Clayton
Chief Executive Officer



2017 Conference

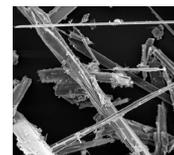
On this, the 5th GQA Approved Centre Conference, we thank Schueco UK for hosting the event at their Network Centre, Milton Keynes and invite our colleagues from GQA Approved Centres to join in with the days discussions and workshops.

As always, GQA staff value the opportunity to meet with the Approved Centre Network and hopefully again this year, it will continue to provide an interesting selection of workshops.

On top of this, we will also hear from Gordon Jenkins of CSCS. CSCS are sponsoring this year's GQA Approved Centre Awards, which recognises those within our network for 'Making a Difference' and will complete the days events.

Workshops

'The Dangers of Asbestos' presented by Vaughan Minshull, Director of Aven Training, a UKATA (UK Asbestos Training Association). Vaughan will share his many years' experience dealing with Asbestos in buildings and talk through the potential hazards from exposure.



'The Neuroscience of Learning' presented by Martin Sadler - GQA External Quality Advisor. Martin studied in the field of NLP where he became interested in the operation of the brain. Using methods of neuroscience in his training roles has greatly influenced individuals attending his courses.



'CSCS Update' presented by Sean Hayes - GQA Technical Manager. Sean will answer questions relating to the recent developments for CSCS and GQA, explaining the type of cards, applying H&S testing and what the removal of the CRO card will mean.



'Building Our Skills' presented by Chris Globe, Director of Inside the Box Marketing. Addressing the industry's current 'skills gap' problem, Chris will present a new industry initiative, aimed at encouraging young people to make 'Fenestration' their career choice.



'GQA's Competency Update' - presented by representatives from GFTS and Fit For Trade - the update will look at qualifications for installers and surveyors. These qualifications ensure individuals are compliant with the rules for both CSCS and DCLG.



Five things about GQA Qualifications

Each newsletter we would like to invite a different Approved GQA Centre to tell us five things we may not know about them. GQA is kicking off with the following:



Writing Qualifications for 20 years

GQA has been developing and implementing qualifications for various industries for over 20 years, including: glass and glazing, construction and printing industries. GQA gains significant knowledge and feedback from its network of Approved Training Centres, who help them provide the industry with new and up-to-date qualifications.

Training Pods

GQA regularly campaign for more practical training facilities. Recently, several training pods were taken on by GQA training centres across the UK, including one at GQA's Head Office. The pods are valuable to students, offering practical training skills to help them have a better understanding whilst undertaking a GQA qualification.



Quality through Qualifications

The Big Green Q logo is a brand that symbolises better trained and qualified individuals. It is important, to develop skills for the industry and encourage individuals to join the industry, forging long-term careers. When completing their training, there is no better confirmation than giving a badge of quality, and the Big Green Q stands as an example of Quality through Qualifications that has been achieved through hard work and dedication.

Proud Industry Supporters

GQA actively support many individual, industry initiatives which encourage quality, development and training. GQA is currently spearheading a new initiative – 'Building our Skills'. Its objective is to promote the advantages to school leavers and young people on why they should choose the Glass and Glazing industry as a career. Efforts from employers and training providers will be instrumental when promoting a career in fenestration.



Not all about work

GQA actively provides support for a local-based fitness programme called 'Fit Reds'. Inspired initially by the British Heart Foundation and Prostate Cancer UK, the programme has been running throughout Barnsley for around 6 years, offering male participants the chance to undertake a 9-week lifestyle and fitness programme both in the classroom and on the pitch, improving knowledge of health issues affecting men over the age of 35, encouraging better health, diet and fitness.

Auto Windscreens - Charity Ride

Tony Green, Centre Co-ordinator and Assessor for Auto Windscreens recently took part in a 90-mile charity cycle ride for Spinal Research. One of the UK's leading auto glass repair and replacement companies, Auto Windscreens delivers GQA qualifications through its internal employer training centre.

Tony and several other colleagues took part in the ride and raised an incredible £500 from their family, friends and colleagues. The cycle ride took place, in August starting in Leicester and finishing in Skegness. A total of 13 riders took part - www.autowindscreens.co.uk/News



Auto Windscreens - The Best

Two GQA qualified technicians from Auto Windscreens took part in this year's Auto Glass Technician Olympics in Florida. Steve Abrahams and Luke Allies made the UK and Auto Windscreens proud, with Steve winning the silver medal for 2nd place in the replacement category.

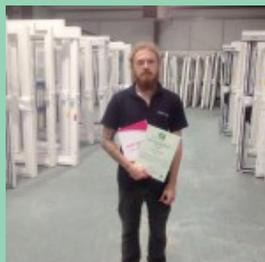
The pair also entered Auto Windscreens' - 'Clearly the Best' competition, at the Auto Windscreens Innovation Centre in Chesterfield. Steve again came up trumps, winning the overall competition and Luke coming second. Trophies for all winners were supplied by GQA Qualifications.



North Lancs Training Group - Long-term investment

Apprentice, Teague Robertson, recently completed his GQA Level 2 Fabrication apprenticeship, supported by NLTG. NLTG has worked with Sliders UK Ltd for many years and seen more than 41 staff undertake a variety of programmes.

Martin Kirk, Sliders UK, production director, said: "We encourage staff who show commitment and determination by investing long-term and providing them with qualifications. Working with NLTG has enabled us to provide our employees with qualifications which specialise and focus solely on the fenestration industry."



NLTG tutor Paul Fairhurst, presented Teague with his GQA Level 2 Fabrication certificate, Teague commented: "It's great to have completed the course and I'm really grateful to Paul for all his support. I came into the industry with no experience, but have learnt so much. During the programme I have gained experience prepping, welding, fitting gearing and hanging all types of fenestration products – all needed in my role."

Nationwide - Introduce Further NVQ Qualifications

Since 2016, Nationwide Windows has successfully seen 17 candidates qualify with either Level 2 or Level 3 NVQ's, and a further 30 working towards qualifications. Service Engineer, Stuart Taylor is the first candidate to gain a Level 2 Continued Competency Update in Fenestration Installation, a 'first-of-its-kind' qualification delivered at Nationwide.

Previously, Stuart had achieved a Level 2 Diploma in Fenestration Installation and took the competency update to ensure that his qualifications remained in-line with industry requirements. He also undertook a GQA Health and Safety paper, to ensure he met the requirements needed to hold a GQA CSCS Q-card – the combined competency card.



Nationwide - GQA congratulate more NVQ's

GQA is delighted to see Nationwide Window & Doors celebrate its second successful round of NVQ achievers at its depot in Nottingham. Its training centre, is one of the first managed by a door and window manufacturer to be recognised by GQA and offer qualifications in-house.

Andy Carrington, External Quality Advisor, GQA added: "We have worked closely with the team at Nationwide to ensure that the 1000s of products they fabricate, and install are of consistent quality and meet current legislation. Congratulations for successfully delivering more GQA recognised NVQ's".



GQA Approved Training Centre Profile

Company: Total Support Training, Hayes, Middlesex

Name: Sharon Alderton

Position: Managing Director

Qualifications: Business, Glass Industry, Construction and Health & Safety



Sharon's Background:

Sharon started her career as a trainee manager at Butlin's Hotel's in Scarborough. During this time, she gained a multitude of skills, from catering to a 'Red Coat'. After having her children, she found life in the spotlight too much, and took a career change into childcare.

Initially, helping at a local playgroup, she swiftly moved into a management role at Pre-School Learning Alliance - where she undertook a position as Operations Manager for 13 various projects. One of the projects Sharon became instrumental in helping to open was the flag ship government-backed, 'Sure Start' centre in London.

In December 2005, Sharon took the decision to start her own training company after becoming increasingly frustrated with funding difficulties for pre-school learning, and in January 2006 she launched - Total Support Training Limited.

Hobbies and Interests: Sharon loves listening to live music and occasionally gets the opportunity to sing live. She is an avid Chelsea football supporter and when not working, loves to travel and go on holidays or breaks - in particular at her holiday home which is a converted chapel in Weymouth.

Most Memorable Life Achievement: Sharon admits she was never a star pupil at school, so returning to education as a mature student after the birth of her three children and achieving her first NVQ qualification in childcare, has to be one of her most memorable life achievements. Sharon went on to pass her Maths and English exams, several management qualifications, before finally gaining a degree.

Products and Services: A range of apprenticeships, stand-alone NVQs and training to support the unemployed back into work.

Total Support Training Limited

Organisation Size: 12

Organisation Type: Privately owned training centre

Organisation Industry Approvals: GQA Approved Training Centre, Future Qualifications Approved Training Centre, Skills Funding Approved

Clients: CN Glass, Megaglass, Everglade, Insight Solutions, MA Rarinca, Solukov, Crystal

Mission Statement: Always work in a way that inspires trust and confidence, take pride in the quality of the relationships we build, commit to meet expectations, work with team spirit in all we do, strive to ensure successful outcomes and to be the best, seek to uphold our values and integrity always.

CSCS approve Q Card

The relationship between GQA Qualifications and the Construction Skills Certification Scheme has developed further in the last few months, with GQA now responsible for issuing the CSCS Q Card – through GQA and the GQA Approved network of centres.

This collaboration will support the growing number of specialised glass and glazing occupations within the construction and related industry. GQA will be able to issue temporary, trainee and full cards dependent on qualification status.

Temporary card - aimed at experienced workers, with proof of relevant GQA qualifications and completion of the GQA Health and Safety assessment paper required. Valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

Trainee card - aimed at Apprentices or new entrants to the industry, requirements as above. Valid for 2 years.

Full card - can be requested on completion of the GQA qualification. Valid for 5 years.

There are several specialist occupations that have been affected by the withdrawal of the CRO card, including: film/graphics application, secondary double-glazing installation, in-situ glass surface restoration and glass splashback/panel installation. GQA has developed a specific qualification for these roles and is now working on a qualification for installation of GRP products.

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) is notifying the industry that glazing/fenestration occupations are being transferred to the GQA Qualifications (formerly Glass Qualifications Authority) CSCS Q-Card.

As part of the card renewal process CSCS will be reminding card holders of the steps to be taken to move across to the Q-card.

Following discussions between the two schemes, it is agreed that the Q-card is better placed to represent the glazing/fenestration sector and that the following occupations in this sector should be transferred:

- Fenestration Surveyor
- Installer: Conservatories
- Installer: Curtain Wall
- Installer: Windows and Doors
- Glazier

