

RoofCERT

Professionalising roofing
and attracting new talent



RoofCERT is an accreditation scheme for roofers. Existing operatives will be able to demonstrate their technical knowledge and essential skills, enabling them to establish a lifelong career path and prove their competence to employers and clients. Businesses whose operatives are 'Accredited Roofers' can expect to benefit from improved health and safety records, reductions in snagging and higher levels of customer satisfaction. Meanwhile, clearer opportunities for advancement will make roofing a more attractive occupation to new entrants, so that the industry can start to tackle the current and future skills gap.

Why is the NFRC developing RoofCERT?

The RoofCERT National Roofing Accreditation scheme is managed by the NFRC, with support from across the roofing industry. The CITB has invested £2.8 million to fund the initial four-year programme, with the NFRC match funding in time and resource. The NFRC believes that an accreditation scheme will improve trust in roofers, as it has done for other sectors, helping to drive out unskilled and unsafe cowboys who undercut responsible roofing installers. It is hoped that accreditation will help to professionalise the industry, making it more attractive to new entrants.

What is the evidence that the industry needs accreditation?

In 2016, the NFRC and the CITB commissioned research to better understand the state of skills and training among roofing contractors. It was based on surveys and in-depth interviews of 141 UK roofing contractors, 11 training organisations, 11 manufacturers and over 150 other stakeholders. The report found that roofing installers were less qualified than many other construction roles, with a shortage of local training provision and assessors to provide on-site training and competency assessment. It is also hard for micro businesses and the self-employed to take time out for training. Snagging rates are therefore high and costly, which impacts productivity.

How is RoofCERT being developed?

The RoofCERT National Roofing Accreditation scheme is highly collaborative, involving the broadest range of stakeholders, including the other roofing trade federations. The Leadership Committee is made up of representatives from across the sector, including roofing contractors, suppliers, merchants, main contractors, and agencies such as LABC. This Committee oversees the work of the three expert activity groups. The Accreditation and Standards activity group is designing the accreditation itself, how

it will be managed and how it will be assessed. The Supply Chain Collaboration group will ensure that there is a pipeline of appropriate training available to deliver accreditation. The Attraction group is developing marketing and communications to engage with industry and clients, as well as ways to make roofing attractive as a career option to new entrants.

Will RoofCERT accreditation be for a company or an individual?

RoofCERT is aimed at individual installers. It is a demonstration of their competency and continued career development within the roofing sector. The accreditation will remain with the individual throughout their career providing the scheme criteria is maintained.

How do I become accredited?

After registering, you will need to pass a technical knowledge test specific to your roofing specialism at an approved secure test centre. To gain accreditation you will then need to provide evidence of qualifications and the completion of mandatory short duration courses on first aid, manual handling, working at height, fire safety and asbestos awareness, abrasive wheels and 'non-technical' skills. You will need to renew your accreditation every three years, by completing the technical knowledge test and mandatory courses that reflect changes to legislation British Standards and industry trends.

What if I am unqualified?

RoofCERT accreditation is a points-based system that captures an installer's existing qualifications but also recognises experience gained on site following an assessment by a trained and experienced Skills Evaluator. This will be conducted in a one-to-one interview with evidence provided from the workplace. If you do not hold the vocational qualification (N/SVQ) you will still need to pass the technical knowledge test and complete the mandatory short courses.

Do I have to be a member of the NFRC or another trade federation?

No. It's open to anyone in industry and the aim is have at least 5,000 roofers accredited by 2021. The accreditation programme has been designed to capture those that work in micro through to large organisations.

How much will RoofCERT cost?

CITB have committed funding to support the accreditation of 5,000 contractors for a single discipline within the initial four-year accreditation programme,

ending in 2021. Thereafter, installers will be charged a fee, which will be confirmed following the scheme's pilot launch in April-June 2019.

Is RoofCERT accreditation available to new entrants?

RoofCERT accreditation is only open to those with a minimum three years roofing experience, though new entrants to the industry can register their interest. However, it is essential that the accreditation scheme targets those entering roofing and supports their development into an experienced roofer. Demonstrating a career pathway will encourage new entrants into the roofing trade.

When will installers be able to register for RoofCERT accreditation?

Registration will be open in Q2, 2019 via www.roofcert.co.uk, which has been developed following extensive testing. The website will include useful information and resources for existing roofers and new entrants.

What will happen at the end of the initial four-year programme?

The intention is that the RoofCERT National Roofing Accreditation scheme becomes the industry standard for roofing operatives. It will be a self-sustaining organisation with responsibility for the continued development and management of the accreditation scheme.

What disciplines will be covered in the scheme?

RoofCERT National Roofing Accreditation will cover all the roofing disciplines, which will be phased in from April, through to September 2019. These include: Roof Tiler; Roof Slater; Roof Slater & Tiler; Reinforced Bituminous Membrane; Single Ply; Liquid Roofing; Lead & Hard Metals; Mastic Asphalt; Roof Sheeting & Cladding. Additional routes will become available in the future.

When will the accreditation programme launch?

The accreditation programme will begin with an official piloting phase between April and June 2019. This will enable the team (with representatives across industry) to test the systems and processes to ensure that the design of the accreditation programme works as intended. Any issues or additional opportunities identified during early testing will be monitored and any necessary amendments made following consultation.

What roofing discipline will be launched first?

The pilot will focus on roof tilers. Changes and improvements to the accreditation process and outputs can then be applied to this discipline before rolling out across the other disciplines with minimal disruption.

What about the other disciplines?

It is likely that accreditation for all disciplines will be available from September 2019, following development of Technical Tests and other key components

by experts, including the roofing trade federations.

What if I'm working on multiple disciplines?

You can obtain accreditation in multiple disciplines. You will need to take the technical knowledge test and if you demonstrate proof of competency, however the majority of evidence required for additional accreditation is cross-referenced against your existing accreditation.

How long does accreditation take to complete?

You can complete it at your own pace. If you do not hold a vocational qualification and have not previously completed any of the short duration courses, then together with technical knowledge test, it will take you approximately 30 hours in total (which can be taken over a 9-month period). Of course, it will take you less time if already hold valid certification in the mandatory training or qualification.

What is the Technical Knowledge Test?

This is a 40-minute online multiple-choice test, which consists of 35 questions. These are based on current standards and codes of practice and cover the entire range of tasks involved in installing a roof covering in a particular discipline. You need to pass this gateway test in order to progress through the accreditation.

What are the short duration courses?

Short duration training courses, some of which are supported through existing CITB grant funding, consist of: Working at Height; Asbestos Awareness; Manual Handling; Abrasive Wheels; Emergency First Aid; Fire safety; Non-Technical. These courses (with the exception of Non-Technical) are already available in the market. CITB has a dedicated training portal where you can search for the training you require. Please ensure any training is carried out by an NFRC or CITB approved organisation.

Can I register for accreditation without having three years experience?

No but we are committed to supporting roofing apprentices so you can register your interest via www.roofcert.co.uk and gain access to useful resources. Your details will be kept, and we will notify you when you become eligible.

How do I register?

Simply go to www.roofcert.co.uk and enter your details, including what disciplines you currently work, and click submit. You will receive a confirmation email and a unique ID that stays with you throughout your career as an Accredited Roofer.

Where can I do training courses?

Most of the training courses (with the exception of non-technical) are already available in the market. CITB has a dedicated training portal where you can search for the training you require. Please ensure any training is carried out by an NFRC or CITB approved organisation.