



E.M.T.T. Newsletter

in partnership with **Burleigh Community College Loughborough**

Where have we gone wrong? Do we need to re-think the 2391 Qualification?

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It seems as if in a recession employers are using qualifications as a criteria for employment but when there is plenty of work around quite often qualifications are brushed under the carpet.

One electrician told me the other day that when being interviewed one of the questions was “**do you have the 2391 qualification?**” He replied, “no but I did not think I would be doing any testing.” “That’s correct”, the employer replied, “we have our own testing department,” so the electrician said, “why then are you asking me if I have the 2391?” There was a slight pause and the employer looked him straight in the eyes and said “**because I can.**”

Most employers now are asking for the City & Guilds 2391-10 Certificate in Inspection & Testing of Electrical Installations. This qualification as I understand it was designed with the support of the NICEIC for their Qualifying Managers now supervisors and or electricians carrying out day to day inspections and tests and in a lot of cases supervising this type of work within the company.

It was not designed, and this is why there is such a low pass rate (48%) for electricians to get additional qualifications and then never be involved in Inspection & Testing. It may be one of the reasons why the 2392 (Fundamental Inspection & Testing) was introduced but this is generally not recognised by the industry.

Due to the recession we now have the situation where **because they can** employers are asking for this qualification. Electricians are feeling forced to try and achieve this, particularly if redundant or feeling they may be made redundant.

The practical assessment is meant to be challenging and focused and most candidates can generally cope as long as they possess the practical skills and knowledge backed up with relevant experience.

Therefore, anyone at risk to themselves (working live for instance) or deficient in any of the aforementioned areas will be routinely filtered out by the test.

Unfortunately, this cannot be said for the written exam. Candidates should not have to waste valuable time in an exam trying to establish exactly what is required from the question because it is not clear, or is populated with redundant information.

The aim of the exam in a defined timescale, especially for candidates with little experience of exam situations perhaps, should be for the candidate to make use of only relevant information. **Clear language** ought to be a pre-requisite. It is no wonder that the pass rate for 2391 written exam is poor and many worthy individuals have failed simply because of the poor quality composition of the exam questions and not because of any deficiencies in the individuals themselves.

To add to this problem the City & Guilds structure is to say the least out of date.

Candidates who sat the exam in December do not receive their results until mid February which means unless they pay a late entry fee (£60 +) on top of the exam fee they can't enter the March exam so they now have to wait until JUNE (6 months). On top of this when they receive their results it's PASS OR FAIL they are not even given a percentage which would give them guidance on how well or how badly they have done. To my knowledge colleges and training centres do not even know the pass rate.

I am not blaming anyone we must move with the times and maybe this is the time for change.

Thoughts and comments welcome.

Barry J Martin (Technical Director)

East Midlands Technical Training Ltd

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C&G2377-12 Portable Appliance Testing

Electricity at Work Regulations