Withdrawal of OCR Retail Knowledge Qualifications

Following a review of our qualifications, and in light of changes in funding arrangements and Apprenticeship reform, we have decided to withdraw OCR Retail Knowledge qualifications as of 31st December 2016. All OCR Retail NVQ and VRQ qualifications in this suite are being withdrawn, including Apprenticeship qualifications.

OCR will of course continue to support and assess the qualifications up to the final certification dates which will be as follows:

Entry Code	Qualification Title	Assessment	Qualification Number	Last date for entries	Last certification date
01766	OCR Level 2 Award in Retail Knowledge (QCF)	E-Test	500/6718/7	31/12/2016	31/07/2017
10360	OCR Level 2 Award in Retail Knowledge (QCF)	Moderated	500/6718/7	31/12/2016	31/07/2017
01767	OCR Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (QCF)	E-Test	500/6736/9	31/12/2016	31/07/2017
10361	OCR Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (QCF)	Moderated	500/6736/9	31/12/2016	31/07/2017
01768	OCR Level 3 Award in Retail Knowledge (QCF)	E-Test	500/6704/7	31/12/2016	31/07/2017
01769	OCR Level 3 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (QCF)	E-Test	500/6737/0	31/12/2016	31/07/2017

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **What is the last date I can enter learners?**
   The final date to enter learners for these qualifications is **31/12/2016**. For units assessed by an e-test, please see Question 8.

2. **What is the last date I can certificate learners?**
   The final certification date for these qualifications is **31/07/2017**.

   Please be aware that the last certification date is the final date OCR will produce certificates. For the postal moderation option, centres are therefore advised to plan for completion of all learner assessment and submit claims at least 21 days prior to the last certification date.

3. **Why is OCR withdrawing these qualifications?**

   Following a review of our qualifications and in light of changes in funding arrangements and Apprenticeship reform we have decided to withdraw. New apprenticeship standards have been published and are due to replace the current SASE framework apprenticeships which will eventually be closed.

   By announcing the withdrawal now, we are notifying centres before the end certification date for candidates to complete their qualifications.

4. **Are all Awarding Organisations withdrawing these qualifications or is it just OCR?**

   Retail knowledge qualifications will eventually be replaced with new apprenticeship qualifications but the decision to withdraw as of 31/12/2016 is an OCR decision. Several other awarding organisations are continuing to offer Retail Knowledge qualifications and for details please view the Ofqual register on the following link:

   http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/

5. **Does this mean OCR is withdrawing all qualifications in this vocational area / sector?**

   OCR is withdrawing all Retail qualifications but will continue to offer a range of qualifications covering a variety of life and work skills. This offering includes Customer Service and Business qualifications. For further details, please visit the OCR website:

   http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-subject/customer-service/

   http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-subject/business/

6. **We are a centre in Wales/Northern Ireland – are we affected in the same way?**
   Yes, these qualifications are approved to be offered in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The end dates will be the same for all three nations.

7. **What if a learner completes their portfolio, but we haven't made a qualification entry for that learner and it is after the final qualification entry date?**

   For moderated units, candidates must be entered via Interchange before the last entry date of 31/12/2016. For units assessed by e-testing, please see Q8

8. **How does the last Entry date and certification date apply to e-tests on SecureAssess?**

   Learners should be created in SecureAssess and associated with the qualification by **31/12/2016**. Once you have associated a learner to a Retail Knowledge qualification at a particular level, you can continue to schedule tests for the learner for all units within the qualification (and resits) until the last certification date of **31/07/2017**.

9. **If we enter our learners via the un-named route for the moderated option before the last entry date and can't use them up by the last assessment date, what happens with my unused entries?**

For both unnamed and named routes, qualification entry fees are non-refundable so we would strongly recommend the e-test route for any remaining learners. The e-test route is more flexible as once a learner is added to SecureAssess and associated with a Retail Knowledge qualification, they can then attempt any unit (or retake a unit) within the qualification until the last certification date of 31/07/17.

Adding a learner does not attract a fee, you are only charged for the tests taken. Ensure that all learners are created in SecureAssess and associated with a Retail Knowledge qualification by the last entry date of 31/12/2016. It will not be possible to associate any new learners with a Retail Knowledge qualification after this date.

10. *Moderated Option*: **What will happen if a learner fails and wants to resubmit evidence for the unit/qualification after the last entry date has passed?**

Named entry - If the claim has been withdrawn and the learner wishes to achieve the qualification, then a new claim can be made and new additional or improved evidence re-submitted until the end certification date, providing that the full qualification has not already been achieved.

Unnamed entry - If the claim has been withdrawn and the learner wishes to achieve the qualification, then a new claim can be made and new additional or improved evidence re-submitted until the end certification date. To do this, you will need to submit the claim using another unnamed entry.

11. **Who can I talk to, to get more information on alternative OCR qualifications?**
To learn more about the options available to you please talk to our Customer Contact Centre on **02476 851509** or email vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

You may also want to contact your Regional Account Manager whose details can be found here:

http://www.ocr.org.uk/contact-us/regional-account-managers/