

Withdrawal of OCR Retail Skills Qualifications

Following a review of our qualifications, and in light of changes in funding arrangements and Apprenticeship reform, we have decided to withdraw our Retail Skills qualifications as of 31st December 2016.

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	Qualification Number	Last date for entries	Last certification date
10284	OCR Level 1 Award in Retail Skills (QCF)	600/3884/6	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10285	OCR Level 1 Certificate in Retail Skills (QCF)	600/3883/4	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10286	OCR Level 1 Diploma in Retail Skills (QCF)	600/3882/2	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10287	OCR Level 2 Award in Retail Skills (QCF)	600/3837/8	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10288	OCR Level 2 Certificate in Retail Skills (QCF)	600/3838/X	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10289	OCR Level 2 Diploma in Retail Skills (QCF)	600/3839/1	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10290	OCR Level 3 Certificate in Retail Skills (Management) (QCF)	600/3840/8	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10291	OCR Level 3 Certificate in Retail Skills (Sales Professional) (QCF)	600/3945/0	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10292	OCR Level 3 Certificate in Retail Skills (Visual Merchandising) (QCF)	600/3881/0	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10293	OCR Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Management) (QCF)	600/3841/X	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10294	OCR Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Sales Professional) (QCF)	600/3843/3	31/12/2016	31/12/2018
10295	OCR Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Visual Merchandising) (QCF)	600/3842/1	31/12/2016	31/12/2018

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**.

2. What is the last date I can certificate learners?

The final certification date for these qualifications is **31/12/2018**.

Please be aware that the last certification date is the final date OCR will produce certificates. Centres are therefore advised to plan for completion of all learner assessment and submit claims at least two months prior to the last certification date. Please see question 10 for further information.

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.

4. 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/>

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

This is an OCR decision. For details of other awarding organisations offering these qualifications, please view the Ofqual register on the following link:

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

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?

Learners must be entered via OCR Interchange before the last entry date of 31/12/2016. Unnamed entries are not available for these qualifications. If the last entry date has passed please [contact us](#).

8. What will happen if a learner has a unit withdrawn and wants to claim the unit at a later date?

As long as they were entered before the last entry date and the last certification date has not passed you can continue to claim units. Claims must be made before the end certification date and before your final external quality assurance visit.

9. I have Direct Claims Status (DCS) – how does this affect the last certification / assessment dates?

Direct Claims Status (DCS) is removed three months prior to last certification date. For Retail Skills this will be removed on 30th September 2018 or at the final EQA visit (whichever is earlier) as all learner portfolios will still be subject to the full quality assurance process.

10. What do we need to consider as the last certification date approaches?

The last certification date for Retail Skills qualifications is **31/12/2018**. This is the last date we will produce certificates and we suggest you plan to complete all candidate assessment at least two months before this. Please ensure your candidates have completed all portfolios of work in order to meet the assessment criteria.

To make sure you're prepared you may like to consider these key points:

- Remember to make your certification claims at least 3 weeks before the last certification date. As part of the quality assurance process, ensure all your claims are part of a sample seen by our external quality assurer (EQA).
- Ensure all your EQA visits take place at least two weeks before the last certification date to allow certificates to be processed.
- If you have any issues arranging visits, or contacting your EQA directly, please contact our allocation team: opsalloc@ocr.org.uk.

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/>