



PAA\|VQ-SET Acquisition of SASL - July 2008 Questions and Answers

1. Who are PAA\|VQ-SET?

PAA\|VQ-SET is the largest UK Specialist Awarding Body offering vocational qualifications in, among others, the following sectors: Petro-chemical, Chemical & Pharmaceutical; Processing and Manufacturing; Hydrocarbons and Refineries; Science and Technology; Engineering and Warehousing. More information about PAA\|VQ-SET, our history, services and qualifications are available on our website www.paa-uk.org

2. Is the SASL name going to stay?

No, the takeover will mean SASL will be incorporated into PAA\|VQ-SET and all candidates, centres and qualifications will be transferred.

3. When will the changes happen?

PAA\|VQ-SET's takeover of SASL was finalised on 4th July 2008, if you have any queries these should be directed to PAA\|VQ-SET using the contact details given overleaf. Any queries relating to SASL prior to this date please contact Cogent SSC on 01925 515200.

4. What changes are there going to be in costs and service? Will it cost me more money?

No, SASL's fee structure will not change in the short term. In future it will be reviewed in line with PAA\|VQ-SET's pricing policy.

Accounts Information - It is important to note that all future invoices will come from PAA\|VQ-SET and payments must be made to us accordingly. Please forward the enclosed information sheet to your Accounts Department. Any payments made in error to SASL must be rectified by the centre.

5. What benefits will centres see from the takeover?

There is significant commonality between the two Awarding Bodies and the acquisition of SASL complements PAA\|VQ-SET's existing operations.

It will give SASL centres access to a greatly increased number of qualifications and also the other services provided by PAA\|VQ-SET, such as customised awards, events run for centres, which include, Best Practice Workshops and our National Conference. Further details available at www.paa-uk.org

6. What will happen to the SASL qualifications? Will there be more qualifications?

The SASL qualifications will be transferred to PAA\|VQ-SET and SASL centres will have access to PAA\|VQ-SET's qualification portfolio, which includes over 60 N/SVQs. Full details of the qualifications PAA\|VQ-SET are approved to offer are available on our website www.paa-uk.org

7. What will be the effect of this change on candidates/centres today and in the future?

It is our objective to ensure that this transfer is as seamless as possible. All awarding body records and documentation will be transferred to Lichfield and centres can expect to receive their usual service and support from PAA\|VQ-SET, with the added benefits of working with a larger organisation.

8. Will I have to re-apply for centre approval?

No, all active approved SASL centres will automatically be transferred to PAA\VQ-SET. Re-approval is an ongoing process providing active centres meet the Criteria of the Regulators and any actions raised at previous External Verification visits. This will therefore continue once regular External Verification visits are recommenced.

9. What about registered candidates who have not yet completed?

All candidates currently registered with SASL will be transferred to PAA\VQ-SET and will have the normal timescale to achieve their award whilst the qualification remains in the National Qualification Framework, as advised by the Regulators, Ofqual and SQA.

10. Will my External Verifier stay the same?

The majority of active approved centres will be allocated a PAA\VQ-SET External Verifier. Details of your new External Verifier will be confirmed shortly and they will then contact you to arrange an External Verification visit.

Any visits which have been booked but not yet undertaken will not take place until you have been contacted by either a PAA\VQ-SET External Verifier or our Head Office to rearrange an appropriate date for this to take place.

11. How do I register new candidates and claim certificates?

Please ensure all correspondence is sent to the address below and in the interim period continue to use the SASL forms you already have, until we send new forms and documentation through.

12. What about candidate Performance Assessment Records (PARs)?

Centres will still be able to obtain Performance Assessment Records by contacting us using the contact details given below.

13. What about the Assessor and Verifier Awards?

PAA\VQ-SET will not be transferring any candidates who were registered through SASL for the above Awards. If you have any candidates registered for these Awards please contact Anne Longbottom at Cogent.

14. What about the Knowledge and Practical Tests?

These will not be available in the short term and we will contact centres as soon as we have further information.

If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact us using the contact details given below:

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Website: www.paa-uk.org