

Revised and updated July 2022

Update on the Adaptation of Delivery and Assessment for CIOL Qualifications (CIOLQ)

Vocational and Technical Qualifications, Vocational and technical qualifications contingency regulatory framework, COVID-19 Conditions and Requirements (VCR)

Guidance for independent candidates and exam venues

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Introduction and rationale

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a loss of opportunity of learning and assessment over the last two years. Multiple national and local restrictions were put in place which presented challenges for awarding organisations, schools, training providers and most importantly candidates.

Given the impact of the prevailing pandemic on all aspects of working lives, including the progression of our candidates, we made adaptations to enable our exams to be taken online at short notice and in a fair and valid way so that we could support our candidates to progress and achieve regardless of the pandemic.

Awarding organisations are permitted to carry forward any adaptations from academic year 2020 to 2021 where they were still necessary and appropriate, however CIOL Qualifications (CIOLQ) has removed certain adaptations deemed unnecessary and has made other adaptations permanent to facilitate the now also permanent move to the online assessment delivery model.

We are committed to continuation of offering to protect the interests of our future candidates and whilst the path of the pandemic is still uncertain, our existing modes of assessment ensure that continuation of delivery and contingent operations are in place should circumstances change.

Update

Ofqual operate a rolling update and their recent update states that a:

'Range of adaptations were permitted in academic year 2021 to 2022. Awarding organisations decided which adaptations were appropriate for their qualifications in accordance with Ofqual's [Vocational and Technical Qualifications Contingency Regulatory Framework \(VCRF\)](#). Some adaptations were in response to public health restrictions. Given that public health restrictions are no longer in place, these adaptations are no longer necessary for the academic year 2022 to 2023 onwards.'

Original adaptations and subsequent July updates

1. Online assessment

We have decided that the only safe and current way that CIOLO could ensure continuation during the Covid - 19 Pandemic was through online exam delivery via our Virtual Centre.

This will now be a permanent change and we will not offer any other means of taking CIOLO exams.

2. Aggregation of marks

Due to additional technical challenges and varying degrees of candidate technological competence and online delivery an adaptation was made to the assessment marking approach and how both unit and final result was calculated.

On review of the qualification specifications for DPI and DPSI and their marking approach, aggregation of marks will feature as a permanent approach to marking.

3. Special consideration

We made amendments to our Special Consideration Policy to reflect technological difficulties on the day of the exam, this was aimed at candidates experiencing technological difficulties when we initially moved our exam delivery online at short notice.

This will no longer be provided for technological difficulties and it is expected that candidates prepare adequately and have both sufficient time and information to resolve any queries prior to the exam.

Candidates are expected to read all the information provided, the respective troubleshooting guide and also complete system checks in the practice environment prior to their exam.

Further information

Any future adaptations may be put in place as we respond to future guidance from the Government and regulatory bodies and urge that candidates revisit our qualifications section of our website regularly which can be found on the main qualification tab.

We welcome comment and query from sector employers, Exam Venues and independent candidates.

Additionally, candidates may email qualifications@ciol.org.uk