

Public Consultation on a draft Code of Practice for Providers of Building Works

General

CIOB supports the Code of Practice for Providers of Building Works. Quality is critical. It is about the greater public good we expect from our buildings to promote human health, safety and wellbeing as well as addressing today's many social, cultural, environmental and economic concerns. We therefore welcome the Code, which will provide quality assurance to the consumer.

Nevertheless, we have a query in light of the Draft's requirement that entry on to the Register is open to all builders who:

- Demonstrate competence in building at the appropriate level of registration.
- Commit to continuous development of knowledge of building practice, building regulations and regulatory obligations.
- Undertake to adhere to the Code of Practice

Our query is in relation to existing qualifications, for example MCIOB, which already require holders to demonstrate these competencies and knowledge. Will holding such qualifications be taken as equivalent to having achieved the above requirements or will holders have to redemonstrate all of the above?

We strongly recommend that holding qualifications such as MCIOB be taken as equivalent to satisfying these criteria. To not grant recognition to of these qualifications would seem overly onerous given that holders have already been through an international benchmarking process. See below for more details.

CIOB qualifications

The CIOB has various routes to Chartered Membership to suit professionals working in the built environment. Chartered professionals are entitled to use the designation MCIOB (Member CIOB), which is awarded to individuals who successfully demonstrate the required competencies for Construction Manager through the Professional Review.

The MCIOB designation has been independently benchmarked by the UK Government's qualifications recognition agency, ENIC, which states that it is comparable to an Honours Bachelor's Degree or, as per the national Framework of Qualifications Ireland (NFQ), level 8. [See Appendix for more details.](#)

The CIOB's Professional Review is the final stage to Chartered MCIOB membership that assesses candidates' competences and allows employers or line managers to verify a candidate's ability to carry out the work of a qualified Construction Manager. The benchmarking study of MCIOB includes an in-depth analysis of the Professional Review's entry requirements, assessment objectives and quality assurance processes. The benchmarking study finds that the majority of the Qualifications and Credit Framework for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (QCF) Level 6 descriptors were met by the Professional Review assessment objectives, equivalent to NFQ Ireland level 8. [See Appendix for more details.](#)

As regards recognition of benchmarking, it is international in scope and does apply to Ireland, as ENIC is set up to offer comparability between qualifications from one country to another. The point is to make it unnecessary to seek recognition in each individual territory, but for those territories to use the ENIC assessments, which are cross-referenced across the globe via the Ecttis system, allowing the assessment of one ENIC to be accepted by another.

Conclusion

The CIOB accredits qualifications in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across Ireland, and our colleagues in the HEI sector are supportive of greater recognition of Construction Management qualifications by the Irish Government. We reiterate that the MCIOB (Chartered Construction Manager) is an appropriate qualification in addressing the key competencies as outlined in the draft Code of Practice for Providers of Building Works for entry to the Register. Taken alongside the international benchmarking of MCIOB as honours degree equivalent, it is our view that MCIOB merits greater recognition at Government Level, and that the creation of the Code of Practice for Providers of Building Works in Ireland is an opportunity to do so.

Appendix: Benchmarking of qualifications



Advice on Academic Recognition of a Foreign Qualification Comparability Statement

Foreign Qualification:	Award at Level 6
Country:	UK
NFQ Award-Type / Level:	An Award at Level 8
<p>NFQ LEVEL SUMMARY Learning outcomes at Level 8 relate to an understanding of the theory, concepts and methods pertaining to a field (or fields) of learning, with innovation as a key feature. The outcomes include an awareness of the boundaries of the learning in the field and the preparation required to push back those boundaries through further learning. The outcomes relate to adaptability, flexibility, ability to cope with change and ability to exercise initiative and solve problems within their field of study. In a number of applied fields the outcomes are those linked with the independent, knowledge-based professional. In other fields the outcomes are linked with those of a generalist and would normally be appropriate to management positions.</p>	

The recognition advice provided above is based on current understandings of the comparability of qualifications on the basis that qualifications are awarded by nationally recognised awarding bodies in their country of origin. The advice given may need to be re-examined in the future on the basis of changes and developments in national and international education and training systems and our knowledge thereof. We welcome feedback on the information provided; feedback should be submitted through the QHelp portal at www.QQI.ie

The advice presented does not represent access to employment, a regulated profession or education and training. The information provided may assist an employer, professional recognition body or education and training provider determine if an applicant holds the qualifications deemed necessary for employment/programme entry. However, final recognition decisions for the purposes of accessing further education and/or employment are made by education institutions, professional recognition bodies and employers.

The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) for Ireland is used to place foreign qualifications in the context of the Irish education and training system. The major awards in the NFQ have been referenced to the EGF and aligned to the QF-EHEA.



● NFQ Irish National Framework of Qualifications
● EQF European Qualifications Framework
● QF-EHEA Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area



For further information contact: www.nfqi.ie www.qqi.ie
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NARIC Ireland, based at QQI, acts as the Irish ENIC-NARIC centre providing advice on the general academic recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland and promoting the recognition of Irish qualifications abroad. See www.enic-naric.net