



Qualifications Criteria For Entry onto CompEx Courses

CompEx centres often receive enquiries relating to the competency of persons carrying out electrical installation, maintenance, inspection & testing and similar activities and what qualifications are required for eligibility for enrolment on a CompEx course.

It should be noted that the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 imposes duties on persons involved in electrical work commercially whether employers, the self employed or employees, including most trainees. Regulation 16 (Persons to be competent to prevent danger and injury) states: *"No person shall be engaged in any work activity where technical knowledge or experience is necessary to prevent danger or, where appropriate, injury, unless he possesses such knowledge or experience, or is under such degree of supervision as may be appropriate having regard to the nature of the work."*

It is stated in the Memorandum of guidance on the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 (HSE: 1989) that *"the object of the regulation is to ensure that persons are not placed at risk due to a lack of skills on the part of themselves or others in dealing with electrical equipment"*. It continues: *"the scope of 'technical knowledge or experience' may include:*

- (a) adequate knowledge of electricity;*
- (b) adequate experience of electrical work;*
- (c) adequate understanding of the system to be worked on and practical experience of that class of system;*
- (d) understanding of the hazards which may arise during the work and the precautions which need to be taken;*
- (e) ability to recognise at all times whether it is safe for work to continue."*

The term 'electrician' is generic, has no legal status and is in no way protected. Anyone may refer to themselves as being an 'electrician'. As such, the term is no indicator of a person's level of training, technical qualifications achieved, or the extent of relevant work experience accumulated - all factors which will affect a person's ability to do electrical work properly. The ability to perform a particular task properly is defined as competency. Generally speaking, a suitably qualified and competent electrician should be able to perform a wide range of installation activities in domestic, industrial and commercial installations. Persons wishing to enrol on a CompEx course will be asked for some evidence of their 'competency'. This will include production of original certificates obtained from successful completion of a recognised apprenticeship and/or training at a technical or further education college and suitable proof of identity. Possession of a JIB or SJIB Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (ECS) gold card meets the above criteria.

For those that are not in possession of a valid or current ECS card (e.g. they produce an expired JIB or SJIB grade card / UK Register of Electricians card, expired ECS card), a current and suitable proof of identity should be requested alongside the card (the candidate should be advised to renew to a current and valid ECS card as soon as is practical – visit www.jib.org.uk or www.sjib.org or www.ecscard.org.uk for further details.

To check those individuals who are not in possession of any of the above cards, a list of the most common recognised qualifications are relevant combinations are produced overleaf.

Note – The qualifications listed overleaf (see Appendix A) are those most commonly found within the UK Electrotechnical sector. If a qualification is held that is not listed, but is believed to be equivalent to provide relevant technical underpinning knowledge, contact CompEx for clarification of the appropriateness of the award to be used to satisfy the CompEx scheme requirements.

List of gold card ECS occupational disciplines from the JIB/SJIB criteria who may automatically register for a CompEx course

- Electrical Fitter
- Instrument Mechanic
- Maintenance Electrician
- Installation Electrician
- Distribution Networks Electrician
- Marine Electrician
- Senior Graded Electrical Trainee (Adults) / Trainee Electrician (Stage 3) - (Must be in final year of training and will be issued with a non-electrical certificate until full electrical qualification and framework is achieved, then a replacement CompEx core competence certificate will be issued, upon verification by CompEx)
- Apprentice – (Must be in final year of apprenticeship and will be issued with a non-electrical certificate until full electrical qualification and framework is achieved, then a replacement CompEx core competence certificate will be issued, upon verification by CompEx)
- ECS Related Disciplines (Please contact CompEx for clarification).

Please refer to <https://www.ecscard.org.uk/Knowledge-Base/What-is-a-qualified-electrician>

Appendix A

See attached spreadsheet for details

Appendix A

Awarding Body	Qualification Title or Number	Title	Level	Type	Additional requirements to achieve Qualified Electrician Status
JIB	ECS Gold Card				A Candidate who holds a valid ECS Electricians gold coloured card issued by either the JIB or SJIB can be considered as having met the necessary prerequisites to enrol on CompEx
SJIB	ECS Gold Card				
City & Guilds	The Electricians Certificate				Awarded as an Advanced Craft certificate upon successful completion of full training or apprenticeship
City & Guilds	A' electricians certificate	Electrical Installation work (part 1)	2	VRQ	replaced by 236 (*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement)
City & Guilds	B' Certificate	Electrical Installation work (part 2)	3	VRQ	replaced by 236 (*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement)
City & Guilds	C' Certificate	Electrical Installation work (part 3)	3	VRQ	*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement
City & Guilds	236	Electrical Installation (Parts 1 & 2)	2,3	VRQ	*must have 236 parts 2 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
City & Guilds	2360	Electrical Installation (Parts 1 & 2)	2,3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
City & Guilds	2356	Electrotechnical Services	2,3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well *Is the whole NVQ that used 2330 as the technical certificate (VRQ)
City & Guilds	2351	Electrical Installation	2,3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
City & Guilds	2330	Electrotechnical Technology	2,3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well *Apprentices were required to achieve both L2 and L3. Adults only needed 2330 L3
City & Guilds EAL		NVQ Diploma in Installing Electrotechnical Systems & Equipment (Buildings, Structures and the Environment) (QCF)	3		

City & Guilds	2357	NVQ Level 3 in Electrical Installation (Buildings and Structures)	3		plus AM2, and for tech certs or equivalents for underpinning knowledge, see http://www.jib.org.uk/documents/handbooks/19-28557-jib-handbook-2017-section-4.pdf
City & Guilds	5357	Electrotech apprenticeship qualification	3		
City & Guilds	2365	Electrical installations	2,3		At both levels 2 and 3 the 2365 is not acceptable as a standalone qualification for either electrician or craft status, details are available in the City & Guilds qualification manual regarding the strict limitations of this qualification on their website and progression from it into learning for an occupation.
City & Guilds EAL	ETS.3	JIB mature candidate assessment			Adult assessment only programme that allows ECS card to be obtained For guidance see https://www.ecscard.org.uk/Mature-Candidate-Assessment
City & Guilds	2394/2395	Inspection & Testing	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
EAL		Initial verification and certification of electrical installations	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
EAL		Periodic inspection testing and certification of electrical installations	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
City & Guilds	2391	Inspection & testing	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
City & Guilds	2380	16th edition wiring regulations	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
City & Guilds	2382	17th edition wiring regulations	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
City & Guilds	2400	Design & verification of electrical installations	3	VRQ	replaced by 2391/02 (Not suitable as a standalone qualification)

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City & Guilds	2391/01	Inspecting & Testing Electrotechnical systems	3	VRQ	replaced 2391 (Not suitable as a standalone qualification)
City & Guilds	2391/02	Design & verification of electrical installations	3	VRQ	replaced 2400 (Not suitable as a standalone qualification)
City & Guilds	Diploma	Building Services Engineering	4	HLQ	*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement
City & Guilds	HNC	Electrical/Electronic engineering	4	HLQ	*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement
City & Guilds	HNC	Building Services	4	HLQ	*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement
EAL	Diploma	Engineering & Technology(progressive)	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
EAL	Diploma	Engineering & Technology	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
EAL	Diploma	Electrotechnical Services	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
EAL	Diploma	Inspecting & Testing Electrotechnical systems	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
EAL	Diploma	Building Electrical Maintenance	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
EAL	Diploma	Installation of Electrical Equipment	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
EAL	Diploma	Advanced Electrical/electronic principles	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
EITB	Tech Cert	EITB Part I (or equivalent ITB) Certificate	2	VRQ	*see note 1 below
EITB	Tech Cert	EITB Part II (or equivalent ITB) Certificate	3	VRQ	*see note 1 below
EITB	Tech Cert	EITB Part III (or equivalent ITB) Certificate	3	VRQ	*see note 1 below
Edexcel	Btec national certificate	Electrical/Electronic engineering	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well

ETCAL	NVQ	Electrical/Electronic engineering	3	NVQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
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Awarding Body	Qualification Title or Number	Title	Level	Type	Additional requirements to achieve Qualified Electrician Status
City & Guilds	HNC	Instrument & Control Engineering	4	VRQ	*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement
Edexcel	BTEC national certificate	Elec/electronic & Instrument Engineering	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
City & Guilds		Plant & Process Engineering	3	VRQ	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
	HNC	Engineering(mechanical)	4	VRQ	*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement
	Advanced Diploma	Engineering	3	VRQ	*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement
	BTEC Diploma	Manufacturing & mechanical Engineering	3	VRQ	*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement
	BTEC Diploma	Mechanical engineering	3	VRQ	*see note 1 below as a minimum requirement
NET / JIB	AM2	Achievement Measurement 2		PPA	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well
NET / SJIB	FICA	Final Integrated Practical Assessment		PPA	must have tech cert & relevant NVQ3 or SVQ3 (or equivalent - *see note 1) as well

***Note 1: For proven completed apprenticeship / trained craftspersons**, (i.e. Those qualifying prior to the National Qualifications Framework - NQF, i.e.NVQ / SVQ), must have been a registered apprentice or undergone some equivalent method of training and have had practical training in electrical installation work, and be able to demonstrate that they completed the relevant apprenticeship or other approved method of training (e.g. apprenticeship completion diploma or relevant advanced craft certificate from awarding body). Older UK personnel may only hold indentures from their apprenticeship.

Note 2: ELECTRICIANS TRAINED OVERSEAS - Anyone trained overseas should contact UK Naric on 0870 990 4088 to have their qualifications evaluated and hold the City and Guilds IEE 17th Edition Qualification and a valid health and safety assessment. Bona fide references must be supplied to confirm experience and competence.