



The Carpenters' Fellowship Structural Post & Beam Carpentry NVQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is it for?

A timber framer with a year's experience in the field will usually have the required level of skill and knowledge to apply and be accepted on the course. The applicant must be in timber framing employment or self-employment.

Is it nationally recognised?

Yes. More importantly perhaps, the units and the standards have been designed and set by your CF Training and Standards Committee, and the course assessment is carried out by your CF assessors, so it is recognised by your peers and by the British and international framing fraternity.

How is the course carried out?

The course is ***On-Site Assessment and Training*** or **OSAT**. This means that the candidate records their work in a portfolio and an assessor visits their place of work to view their progress, authenticate and verify their evidence portfolio and conduct various interviews to establish the depth of their knowledge.

Your assessor also guides you through the process, advising where extra training, knowledge or experience is required. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that any gaps in their skills and knowledge are addressed.

Where do I register for the course?

You register by contacting the **Oak Frame Training Forum**. Log into the website and send your details using the email link provided on the CF NVQ page. You will receive the application forms and guidance notes to be returned to the OFTF at the address provided. You will then be contacted by an assessor who will arrange to visit you at your premises.

You can follow the NVQ link from the CF website (www.carpentersfellowship.co.uk) or visit the OFTF website directly at www.offt.org.uk

The course is carried out entirely at the candidate's place of work and there is no restriction on any candidate from any part of England or Wales applying. At present, the SVQ or Scottish Vocational Qualification is not available.

Who awards the qualification?

The awarding body is **Construction Alliance Awards** which is an arm of the CITB.

How much does it cost?

Since the beginning of March 2010, NSAC has raised the registration fee from £62.50 to £250. We have had to increase the cost of the NVQ in line with this so the course fee is now £630. There is an additional £35 fee for the CSCS touchscreen Health & Safety test. (correct at time of going to press)

If the applicant is in scope of the ConstructionSkills and registered, a grant to offset this cost is available. To obtain more details, contact your Cskills representative or the OFTF training officer at this address: nvq@offf.org.uk

Is only level 2 available?

At present, yes. Work continues in developing a craft-based NVQ level 3 and apprenticeship schemes.

If I am not in full-time framing employment, can I still apply?

No. Any training courses, framing projects or relevant employment experience that you undertake may help you towards an NVQ so long as:

Your framing experience is documented and recorded along with verifiable testimony or witness statement from an authoritative source.

This can be, for instance, an employer in the framing trade, a client, such as an architect or engineer, a course tutor, or one of our CF assessors. Such evidence may qualify you to enrol on the course, and some may be admissible as portfolio evidence.

You will still need to be in framing employment to be assessed and to complete the course.

If I work alone or in a small team can I still apply?

Yes. However you will need to find a witness to act as your work-based recorder. This person must be qualified or sufficiently experienced to judge the quality of your work, must verify each piece of your portfolio evidence by observing you work and must be accepted for the role by the CF NVQ team.