



BREXIT: DEAL OR NO-DEAL

We recognise that some of our centres have concerns regarding Brexit and the possible impact this may have after 29th March 2019 on vocational and technical qualifications.

It is important to understand that all iTEC and VTCT qualifications are regulated in the UK, and our qualifications are included in the UK's Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) which are also mapped to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

The EQF is a common European reference framework that acts as a translation tool to make qualifications more understandable and comparable across countries in Europe. VTCT is a member of the ENI RQF-EQF Referencing Steering Group, responsible for carrying out the work of updating the referencing of UK RQF qualifications to the EQF.

iTEC and VTCT qualifications are categorised as “vocational and technical qualifications” and as such, fall within intergovernmental policies that are implemented on an entirely voluntary basis, and are **not reliant on EU legislation**.

Both the EU Member States and ‘third countries’ throughout the European geographical region have been utilising the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) since it was adopted in 2008, this will continue post Brexit.

There are two possible scenarios at the end of March: one where there is some kind of ‘Brexit deal’ agreed, or one where there is a ‘No-deal Brexit’.

Brexit Deal Agreed

If the UK withdraws from the European Union with a Withdrawal Agreement in place there will be no change whatsoever to the recognition of UK vocational and technical qualifications in Europe and around the world. UK qualifications will continue to be referenced to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

No-deal Brexit

In this scenario of a No-deal Brexit the UK becomes a ‘third country’, which means that there could be a minor delay in the process of updating the established referencing of UK qualifications to the EQF. Within our category of vocational and technical qualifications such a delay would be temporary and would only last until a new voluntary processes between the UK and EU is in place. Any delay in this process is likely to be inconsequential in the long-term for iTEC and VTCT qualification holders.

We will update this advice as soon as new information is available.

Notes:

The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) was officially adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in 2008. The EQF is a common European reference framework which links countries’ qualifications systems together, acting as a translation device to make qualifications more understandable and comparable for learners, employers, educators and other stakeholders, across different countries and systems in Europe. The EQF is a lifelong learning framework and covers all types of qualifications, ranging from the most basic levels of education (UK Level 1) to the highest qualifications such as Doctorate (UK Level 8). The EQF includes academic general qualifications and vocational, technical and professional qualifications.