



QUANTITY SURVEYING – SPECIALIST COMPETENCIES

April 2021 Revision

Revisions 2021: the following updates have been made to the Quantity Surveying Specialist Competencies

QS Spec 01B: optimum standard for Member raised to 'E'

QS Spec 02A: added '*and cost/value*' and '*Demonstrating ability in cost capture, codes of accounts and work breakdown structures.*'

QS Spec 02C: optimum standard for Member raised to 'E'

QS Spec 02D: added '*for example Earned Value Management/Analysis*'

QS Spec 03C: added '*means of delay analysis*'

QS Spec 04A: optimum standard for Member raised to 'E'

QS Spec 04D: replaced the words '*under this type of contract*' with '*where Activity Schedules are used*'

Name of Supervisor	Name of Applicant
Supervisor's signature	Date



Commercial (QS) Specialist Competencies

QUANTITY SURVEYING SPECIALIST COMPETENCIES 2021

The quantity surveying competencies are split into core and specialist competencies.

OPTIMUM STANDARDS

Each of the activities under the competencies must be signed-off to a specific standard, indicated by one of the letters A, K, E or B. The definitions of these are given below.

A	Appreciation	A general awareness of the activity is required. This could be acquired by reading a magazine article or attending a CPD event.
K	Knowledge	This standard requires a more detailed level of knowledge understanding of the activity. This could be acquired by undertaking a training course or other type of study but not necessarily put into practice e.g. a subject area on a degree course.
E	Experience	To reach this standard the activity must have been performed independently or under supervision. This may be achieved by undertaking the activity in a work context over a period of time. Experience of the activity or subject should follow on and be additional to appreciation and knowledge in that subject area.
B	Ability	To be able, without supervision, to perform relevant functions and be able to supervise other less experienced staff. This may be evidenced by the undertaking of management roles or experience gained over time.

Technical Member level - the applicant must achieve a minimum average standard K across all core and specialism activities. In addition, **a minimum of 5 activities must be assessed at level E**, and **up to 5 activities may be assessed at level A**. There are no restrictions within this as to the particular choice of activities.

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Commercial (QS) Specialist Competencies

Member level – the optimum standard is given against each activity statement.

Commercial QS Spec 01	Competency		Cost planning and pre-contract cost control				
	Optimum		Activity Detail	Date of Assessment			
	Technical	Member		A	K	E	B
A	K	K	Possess a knowledge of the elements present in a project budget at pre-contract phase.				
B	K	E	Have knowledge of the development of a cost plan or spread of a tender budget along with identification of cost drivers for civil engineering works.				
C	K	K	Understand various civil engineering design options covering Employer/Consultant design, innovation and Contractor design and construct.				
D	K	E	Analyse and compare contract and subcontract tenders and tender budget information.				
E	K	K	Knowledge of various scheme funding options and corporate governance applied by stakeholders.				

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Commercial (QS) Specialist Competencies

Commercial QS Spec 02	Competency		Project/commercial management reporting, internal accounts and company accounts				
	Optimum		Activity Detail	Date of Assessment			
	Technical	Member		A	K	E	B
A	K	B	Assessment of financial performance through applying the quantity and cost/value of work completed to arrive at cost and value reconciliation reporting. Demonstrating ability in cost capture, codes of accounts and work breakdown structures.				
B	K	E	Involvement in and understanding of the production of project trading accounts/reports illustrating profit/loss, overhead cost recovery and financial outturn forecasts for management purposes and their impact on company objectives.				
C	K	E	Understand the basics of company accounts, including turnover, profit/loss, work in hand and cash-flow.				
D	K	E	Identify and interpret Key Performance and Result Measures, for example Earned Value Management/Analysis.				

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Commercial (QS) Specialist Competencies

Commercial QS Spec 03	Competency		Recording works progress and determining/evaluating the effects of delay, prolongation and disruption				
	Optimum		Activity Detail	Date of Assessment			
	Technical	Member		A	K	E	B
A	K	B	Ability to devise, maintain and audit suitable contemporary records of work progress.				
B	K	E	Evaluation of recorded work through applying relevant financial assessment methods.				
C	K	K	Understand the causes of delay, means of delay analysis and their critical and non-critical effects on project completion and entitlement to extensions of time.				
D	K	K	Understand the effects of disruption on resources and progress, and methods of demonstrating disruption effects.				
E	K	E	Apply a range of valuation techniques to items of change and understand the relative strengths and weaknesses of those techniques.				

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Commercial (QS) Specialist Competencies

Commercial QS Spec 04	Competency		Bills of Quantities, Schedules of Rates and Activity Schedules	Date of Assessment				
	Optimum			Activity Detail	A	K	E	B
	Technical	Member						
A	K	E	Understand the various uses of Bills of Quantities, Schedules of Rates, and Activity Schedules and their preparation in accordance with standard methods of measurement.					
B	K	E	Understand the different risks associated with measurement and pricing carried out under remeasurement contracts, lump sum contracts and target cost/cost reimbursable contracts and design and construct contracts.					
C	K	E	Experience of the structure of a Bill of Quantities and the varying approach to pricing with particular reference to quantity related and time related items and method related charges.					
D	K	K	Understand the principles of pricing using Activity Schedules (including scope coverage) and how to deal with the evaluation of change where Activity Schedules are used.					

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Commercial (QS) Specialist Competencies

Commercial QS Spec 05	Competency		Management of interim and final accounts				
	Optimum		Activity Detail	Date of Assessment			
	Technical	Member		A	K	E	B
A	K	B	Apply the contractual and statutory provisions relating to applications for payment including Contractor and Employer/Project Manager assessments, certificates and payment for both interim and final accounts.				
B	K	E	Preparation, presentation, negotiation and agreement of interim and final accounts, including re-measurement in accordance with a standard method of measurement.				
C	K	K	Understanding of what constitutes Settlement Agreements and auditing of final accounts.				
D	K	E	Preparation and evaluation of compensation event claims, and/or other claims based upon contractual entitlement, and/or insurance claims.				

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