Qualification Specification

ProQual Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge for Laser Safety

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This qualification is part of ProQual's broad offer of qualifications in the Hair and Beauty Sector.

To find out more about other qualifications in this, or any other sector, or for our latest fees; check our Fees Schedule via the QR code below:

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Introduction

The ProQual Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge for Laser Safety provides a nationally recognised qualification for those working or wanting to work in the aesthetics industry, and who wish to develop and demonstrate their competence at safely using Laser and other high energy light devices.

This qualification has been designed with reference to the MHRA guidance on Lasers, intense light source systems and LEDs in medical, surgical, dental and aesthetic practices. Candidates who complete this qualification will have covered the "core knowledge" of this guidance.

The aims of these qualifications are:

- To develop an understanding of the safe use of laser and high energy light devices.
- To provide a progression route within the beauty and aesthetics industry, for those interested in advanced skin treatments.

The awarding body for this qualification is ProQual AB. This qualification has been approved for delivery in England and Northern Ireland. The regulatory body for this qualification is Ofqual, and this qualification has been accredited onto the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) and has been published in Ofqual's Register of Qualifications.

This qualification will be valid for three years from the date of certification.

Qualification Profile

Qualification Title:	ProQual Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge for Laser Safety
Qualification Number:	610/5057/X
Level:	Level 4
Total Qualification Time (TQT):	40 Hours 4 Credits
Guided Learning Hours (GLH):	16 Hours
Assessment:	Pass / Fail
	Internally assessed and verified by centre staff
	External quality assured by ProQual Verifiers
Qualification Start Date:	06/01/2025
Qualification Review Date:	06/01/2028

Learner Profile

There are no formal academic requirements for this qualification.

Centres should carry out their own initial assessment of a candidate's initial knowledge and skills.

Candidates must be **at least 16 years old** on the day that they are registered for one of these qualifications. Centres are reminded that no assessment may take place until a candidate has been registered.

Candidates who complete this qualification may progress to the ProQual Level 4 Diploma in Skin Treatment Using High Energy Devices.

Qualification Structures

This qualification consists of **two** mandatory units. Candidates must complete both units to be awarded the qualification.

Unit Number	Unit Title	Level	TQT	GLH
Mandatory Units – Candidates must complete **all** units in this group.				
M/651/4099	Understanding Legislation and Regulations Relating to Medical Lasers and Related Devices	4	20	8
D/651/4100	Understanding how to Safely Use Medical Lasers and Related Devices	4	20	8

Centre Requirements

Centres must be approved to deliver this qualification. If your centre is not approved to deliver this qualification, please complete and submit the ProQual Additional Qualification Approval Form.

Materials produced by centres to support candidates should:

- Enable them to track their achievements as they progress through the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
- Provide information on where ProQual's policies and procedures can be viewed.
- Provide a means of enabling Internal and External Quality Assurance staff to authenticate evidence.

Centres must have appropriate resources to allow candidates to complete the practical activities described in this specification.

Certification

Candidates who achieve the requirements for this qualification will be awarded:

- A certificate listing all units achieved, and
- A certificate giving the full qualification title:

ProQual Level 4 Award in Core Knowledge for Laser Safety

Claiming certificates

Centres may claim certificates for candidates who have been registered with ProQual and who have successfully achieved the qualification. All certificates will be issued to the centre for successful candidates.

Unit certificates

If a candidate does not achieve all of the units required for a qualification, the centre may claim a unit certificate for the candidate which will list all of the units achieved.

Replacement certificates

If a replacement certificate is required a request must be made to ProQual in writing. Replacement certificates are labelled as such and are only provided when the claim has been authenticated. Refer to the Fee Schedule for details of charges for replacement.

Assessment Requirements

Each candidate is required to produce a portfolio of evidence which demonstrates their achievement of all of the learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each unit.

Evidence can include:

- Observation report by assessor.
- Assignments/projects/reports.
- Professional discussion.
- Witness testimony.
- Candidate product.
- Worksheets.
- Record of oral and written questioning.
- Recognition of Prior Learning.

Candidates must demonstrate the level of competence described in the units. Assessment is the process of measuring a candidate's skill, knowledge and understanding against the standards set in the qualification.

Centre staff assessing this qualification must be occupationally competent and qualified to make assessment decisions. Assessors who are suitably qualified may hold a qualification such as, but not limited to:

- ProQual Level 3 Certificate in Teaching, Training and Assessment.
- ProQual Level 3 Award in Education and Training.
- ProQual Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment. *(Suitable for assessment taking place in a working salon only.)*
- ProQual Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocational Achievement. *(Suitable for assessment taking place in a simulated training environment only.)*

Candidate portfolios must be internally verified by centre staff who are occupationally knowledgeable and qualified to make quality assurance decisions. Internal verifiers who are suitably qualified may hold a qualification such as:

- ProQual Level 4 Award in the Internal QA of Assessment Processes and Practice.
- ProQual Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal QA of Assessment Processes and Practice.

Occupationally competent means capable of carrying out the full requirements contained within a unit. **Occupationally knowledgeable** means possessing relevant knowledge and understanding.

Enquiries, Appeals and Adjustments

Adjustments to standard assessment arrangements are made on the individual needs of candidates. ProQual's Reasonable Adjustments Policy and Special Consideration Policy sets out the steps to follow when implementing reasonable adjustments and special considerations and the service that ProQual provides for some of these arrangements.

Centres should contact ProQual for further information or queries about the contents of the policy.

All enquiries relating to assessment or other decisions should be dealt with by centres, with reference to ProQual's Enquiries and Appeals Procedures.

Units – Learning Aims and Assessment Criteria

Title:	Understanding Legislation and Regulations Relating to Medical Lasers and Related Devices			**Level:**	4
Unit Number:	M/651/4099	**TQT:**	20	**GLH:**	8

Learning Outcomes *The learner will be able to:*		**Assessment Criteria** *The learner can:*	
1	Understand the function of optical radiation devices.	1.1	Describe what is meant by optical radiation, including: • What is meant by ultraviolet, visible and infra-red light. • The properties of these types of light. • The maximum and minimum wavelengths associated with these types of light.
		1.2	Explain the properties of laser optical radiation, including what meant when it is described as: • Collimated. • Monochromatic. • Spatially coherent.
		1.3	Describe the different types of laser output mechanism, including: • Continuous wave. • Gated or chopped CW mode. • Q-Switched.
		1.4	Describe the different types of beam guides.

1	*Continued*	1.5	Describe the different types of beam delivery systems, including: • Handpieces. • Microscope manipulators. • Endoscopic applicators. • Scanning heads. • Diffusers. • Fibre delivery systems.
		1.6	Describe the different types of lasers used in aesthetic practice and what they are used for.
		1.7	Describe the properties of intense pulsed light (IPL).
		1.8	Describe the different IPL delivery mechanisms.
		1.9	Describe how and why the skin is cooled during an IPL procedure.
		1.10	Describe how IPL systems are used in aesthetic practice.
		1.11	Describe the properties of LED output.
		1.12	Explain the advantages of LEDs over lasers and IPL systems.
		1.13	Describe how LED systems are used in aesthetic practice.
2	Understand how lasers and related devices are classified.	2.1	Explain the system used to classify lasers, including: • The different classes and sub-classes. • The types of laser within each class. • The eye and skin hazards associated with each class.
		2.2	Explain how IPL systems are classified.
3	Understand the legislation and guidance relating to optical radiation devices.	3.1	Explain the requirements placed on aesthetic practitioners by the Artificial Optical Radiations at Work Regulations.

3	*Continued*	3.2	Explain the requirements placed on aesthetic practitioners, in relation to the use of laser, IPL and LED systems, by the following pieces of legislation and regulation: • Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations. • COSHH. • Electricity at Work Regulations. • Health and Safety at Work Act. • Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations. • Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations. • Health and Social Care Act 2008. • The Medical Devices Directive. • Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations. • Personal Protective Equipment Regulations. • Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations. • RIDDOR.
		3.3	Explain the requirements placed on aesthetic practitioners, in relation to the use of laser, IPL and LED systems, by own local council authority.
		3.4	Describe the requirements outlined by the following British Standards, in relation to laser, IPL and LED systems: • BS EN 60601-1. • BS EN 60601-2-22. • BS 60601-2-57. • BS EN 60825-1. • BS EN 207. • BS EN 208.

Additional Assessment Information

This unit is **knowledge based.** This means that evidence is expected to take the form of candidate's written work and/or records of appropriate professional discussions.

Centres may use the appropriate ProQual Candidate Workbook, or their own, centre devised, assignments.

Title:	Understanding how to Safely Use Medical Lasers and Related Devices			**Level:**	4
Unit Number:	D/651/4100	**TQT:**	20	**GLH:**	8

Learning Outcomes *The learner will be able to:*		**Assessment Criteria** *The learner can:*	
1	Understand the hazards associated with optical radiation devices.	1.1	Describe the dangers to clients associated with laser, IPL and LED systems; including but not limited to: • Stray optical radiation. • Eye injury. • Skin burns from damaged external filter. • Skin burns from hot spots. • Broken optical fibres. • Risk of fire. • Risk of mistreatment.
		1.2	Describe the dangers to practitioners and other staff associated with laser, IPL and LED systems; including but not limited to: • Damage to the eyes and skin. • Risk of fire. • Laser plume emissions. • Unexpected adverse events.
2	Understand the effects of optical radiation on bodily tissue.	2.1	Describe the photo-thermal effect of optical radiation on bodily tissue.
		2.2	Describe the photo-mechanical effect of optical radiation on bodily tissue.
		2.3	Describe the photo-chemical effect of optical radiation on bodily tissue.
		2.4	Describe the photo-ablative effect of optical radiation on bodily tissue.

3	Understand safety management relating to optical radiation devices.	3.1	Describe the benefits of incorporating optical radiation safety into a separate policy.
		3.2	Explain the role of the laser protection adviser.
		3.3	Explain the role of the laser safety officer.
		3.4	Explain the role of the laser protection supervisor.
		3.5	Explain what is meant by an authorised user, and their recommended level of competency.
		3.6	Explain what is meant by an assisting staff, and their recommended level of competency.
		3.7	Describe the recommended training for practitioners using optical radiation devices, including: • Equipment training. • Safety training. • Procedural training.
4	Understand safety administration relating to optical radiation devices.	4.1	Describe the process for undertaking a risk assessment, in relation to optical radiation devices.
		4.2	State how often a risk assessment should be reviewed, in relation to optical radiation devices.
		4.3	Describe the procedures for reporting adverse incidents relating to optical radiation devices.
5	Understand the hazard control measures associated with optical radiation devices.	5.1	Explain what is meant by "hierarchy for controlling safety", in relation to optical radiation devices.
		5.2	Explain, with examples, equipment/engineering controls in relation to optical radiation devices.
		5.3	Explain, with examples, administration controls in relation to optical radiation devices.

5	*Continued*	5.4	Explain, with examples, personal controls in relation to optical radiation devices.
		5.5	Describe the control measures that should be implemented at the end of the working day, in relation to optical radiation devices.
		5.6	Explain, with examples, the contingency arrangements that should be included in a risk assessment relating to optical radiation devices.
		5.7	Explain how a controlled area is used as a control measure in relation to optical radiation devices, and methods by which a controlled area can be established.
		5.8	Explain how maximum permissible exposure calculations can be used to control risks associated with optical radiation.
		5.9	Explain what is meant by nominal ocular hazard distance.
		5.10	Explain how physical control measures can be put in place to control the risk associated with optical radiation, including: • Blinds and barriers. • Door interlocks.
		5.11	Describe the warning signs associated with Laser, IPL and LED systems, including: • What signs should be used. • Where signs should be placed. • Where signs should be removed.
		5.12	Explain how reflective surfaces in a treatment room can contribute to the hazards associated with optical radiation.

5	*Continued*	5.13	Describe the PPE that should be worn by practitioners using laser, IPL and LED systems, including: • Eye protection. • Hand protection. • Clothing protection.
		5.14	Describe how laser, IPL and LED systems can cause surgical fires, how these can be prevented, and the correct course of action should these occur.
		5.15	Describe the control measures that can be put in place to control the hazards associated with smoke plumes.
		5.16	Describe, with examples, how pre-use equipment checks can be used to control the hazards associated with laser, IPL and LED systems.
		5.17	Describe the quality assurance checks that should be carried out: • Daily. • Weekly. • Yearly or six monthly.

Additional Assessment Information

This unit is **knowledge based.** This means that evidence is expected to take the form of candidate's written work and/or records of appropriate professional discussions.

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Appendix One – Command Verb Definitions

The table below explains what is expected from each **command verb** used in an assessment objective. Not all verbs are used in this specification.

Apply	Use existing knowledge or skills in a new or different context.
Analyse	Break a larger subject into smaller parts, examine them in detail and show how these parts are related to each other. This may be supported by reference to current research or theories.
Classify	Organise information according to specific criteria.
Compare	Examine subjects in detail, giving the similarities and differences.
Describe	Provide detailed, factual information about a subject.
Discuss	Give a detailed account of a subject, including a range of contrasting views and opinions.
Evaluate	As with compare but extended to include pros and cons of the subject. There may or may not be a conclusion or recommendation as appropriate.
Explain	As with describe, but extended to include causation and reasoning.
Identify	Select or ascertain appropriate information and details from a broader range of information or data.
Interpret	Use information or data to clarify or explain something.
Produce	Make or create something.
State	Give short, factual information about something.
Specify	State a fact or requirement clearly and in precise detail.

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