

Why competence matters in roofing



In the roofing industry, competence isn't just a requirement—it's the foundation of quality, safety, and career progression. As an Installer Supervisor, your role is critical in ensuring that projects are completed to the highest standards while maintaining compliance with building regulations, and health and safety laws.

This framework has been designed to help you, and your employer, assess the key competencies required for this role, identify training needs, and work towards continuous professional development. Whether you're an experienced roofer stepping into a supervisory role or an employer looking to upskill your workforce, this guide provides a clear structure to help achieve excellence in roofing supervision.

Using this framework effectively

- > Assess current competence** – evaluating an individual's competence starts with understanding their existing knowledge, skills, behaviours and experience against the framework requirements.
- > Self-assessment** – individuals should review each competency area and honestly assess their own level of expertise, noting areas where they feel confident and those where they need further development.
- > Employer/Manager evaluation** – the employee's supervisor or company training leads can conduct assessments through on-site observations, project reviews, and structured performance discussions.
- > Formal assessment tools** – employers can utilise workplace assessments, CITB accreditation schemes, or RoofCERT certification to validate practical skills and knowledge.
- > Feedback from peers and clients** – colleagues and clients can provide valuable insights into an individual's strengths and areas for improvement, ensuring a well-rounded assessment.
- > Record keeping** – documenting competence status through a structured approach, such as a training log or competency matrix, can help track progress over time.
- > Identify Training Needs** – highlight any areas where additional training or assessment is required to bridge knowledge or skill gaps.
- > Plan Professional Development** – use the listed training resources and assessment options to create a structured plan for upskilling and formal accreditation.

Work through the list of requirements and mark the current status of an individual aspiring to, or working in this role to understand the gaps in their current proof of competency and training required.

Activities		Labourer competency requirements	Individual's competency status	Training	Assessment
Core Construction Competencies					
641	Conform to general workplace health, safety	✓			Roofing occupations - CITB (also see unit assessment in available qualifications tab)
642	Conform to productive work practices	✓			Roofing occupations - CITB (also see unit assessment in available qualifications tab)
643	Move, handle or store resources	✓			Roofing occupations - CITB (also see unit assessment in available qualifications tab)
FSiB	Fire safety in Buildings	✓		eLearning link	
Core Trade Competencies					
G1/ G16	Interpretation of information	✓		Introduction to H&S in construction Building information modelling (BIM) introduction - CITB Information sources and fixing specifications - CITB Conforming to General Health, Safety and Welfare in the Workplace	see unit RST1,2,3,4,5,6 (also contained in 641, 642, 643 Core construction units)
G2/ G17	Safe working practices	✓		Introduction to H&S in construction Rooftop Safety Training - CITB	see unit RST1,2,3,4,5,6 (also contained in 641, 642, 643 Core construction units)
G3/ G18	Selection of resources	✓		Introduction to H&S in construction	see unit RST1,2,3,4,5,6 (also contained in 641, 642, 643 Core construction units)
G4/ G19	Minimise the risk of damage	✓		Introduction to H&S in construction Roof loading and manual handling - CITB	see unit RST1,2,3,4,5,6 (also contained in 641, 642, 643 Core construction units)
G5	Meet the contract specification	✓		Introduction to H&S in construction	see unit RST1,2,3,4,5,6 (also contained in 641, 642, 643 Core construction units)
G6/ G20	Allocated Time	✓			see unit RST1,2,3,4,5,6 (also contained in 641, 642, 643 Core construction units)
G7	Knowledge and understanding of the project specific specification, manufacturers recommendations and installation guidelines and working practices in relation to structural stability				Knowledge of how building regulation compliance is achieved
G8	Knowledge and understanding of the project specific specification, manufacturers recommendations and installation guidelines and working practices in relation to ventilation				Knowledge of how building regulation compliance is achieved
G9	Knowledge and understanding of the project specific specification, manufacturers recommendations and installation guidelines and working practices in relation to fire safety				Knowledge of how building regulation compliance is achieved

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Activities		Labourer competency requirements	Individual's competency status	Training	Assessment
G10	Knowledge and understanding of the project specific specification, manufacturers recommendations and installation guidelines and working practices in relation to conservation of fuel and power				Knowledge of how building regulation compliance is achieved
G11	Knowledge and understanding of the project specific specification, manufacturers recommendations and installation guidelines and working practices in relation to materials and workmanship				Knowledge of how building regulation compliance is achieved
G12	Knowledge and understanding of the project specific specification, manufacturers recommendations and installation guidelines and working practices in relation to drainage and rainwater				Knowledge of how building regulation compliance is achieved
G13	Knowledge and understanding of the project specific specification, manufacturers recommendations and installation guidelines and working practices in relation to moisture				Knowledge of how building regulation compliance is achieved
G14	Knowledge and understanding of the project specific specification, manufacturers recommendations and installation guidelines and working practices in relation to combustion appliances and fuel storage systems				Knowledge of how building regulation compliance is achieved
G15	Knowledge and understanding of the project specific specification, manufacturers recommendations and installation guidelines and working practices in relation to protection from falling, collision and impact				Knowledge of how building regulation compliance is achieved

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Specialist Trade Competencies - Minimum Requirements					
Activities		Labourer competency requirements	Individual's competency status	Training	Assessment
RST1	Understanding of Industry Technical Standards Roof Slater/ Roof Tiler/ Roof Slater & Tiler <i>(mandatory for base level qualification)</i>			Building regulations and standards - CITB Industry standards - CITB	Demonstrated through all other methods of assessment
				Industry Standards	
RST2	Install underlay, battens and roofing components Roof Slater/ Roof Tiler/ Roof Slater & Tiler <i>(mandatory for base level qualification)</i>			Batten and membrane installation	RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route
				PDA Roofing SCQF level 6 - SQA	Roofing Occupations (Construction) SCQF level 6 - SQA
				Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Welsh Apprenticeship	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
					Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)
RST3	Install pre-formed weathering flashings to roofs Roof Slater/ Roof Tiler/ Roof Slater & Tiler <i>(mandatory for base level qualification)</i>				RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route
				Plain tiling (including background materials and flashings) - CITB	
				PDA Roofing SCQF level 6 - SQA	Roofing Occupations (Construction) SCQF level 6 - SQA
				Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Welsh Apprenticeship	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
	Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)				

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Activities		Labourer competency requirements	Individual's competency status	Training	Assessment
RST4	Install single-lap roof tiles to a variable gauge Roof Tiler/ Roof Slater & Tiler <i>(mandatory for base level qualification)</i>			PDA Roofing SCQF level 6 - SQA	Roofing Occupations (Construction) SCQF level 6 - SQA
				Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Welsh Apprenticeship	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
				Dry-fixed systems	Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)
				Interlocking tiles introduction	RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route
RST5	Install plain tile roof coverings Roof Tiler/ Roof Slater & Tiler <i>(mandatory for base level qualification)</i>			Interlocking tiling	
				Plain tiling (including background materials and flashings) - CITB	
				Plain tiling introduction - CITB	
				PDA Roofing SCQF level 6 - SQA	Roofing Occupations (Construction) SCQF level 6 - SQA
				Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Welsh Apprenticeship	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
Dry-fixed systems	Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)				
RST6	Install regular sized natural roof slate to standard roof details Roof Slater/ Roof Slater & Tiler <i>(mandatory for base level qualification)</i>				RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route
				Natural slating - CITB	
				Natural slating introduction - CITB	
				PDA Roofing SCQF level 6 - SQA	Roofing Occupations (Construction) SCQF level 6 - SQA
				Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Welsh Apprenticeship	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
	Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)				
	RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route				

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Activities		Labourer competency requirements	Individual's competency status	Training	Assessment
RST7	Install double-lap artificial roof slates (required if carrying out this activity)			Man-made cement fibre slating - CITB	Roofing Occupations (Construction) SCQF level 6 - SQA
				PDA Roofing SCQF level 6 - SQA	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				Welsh Apprenticeship	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)
					RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route
RST8	Strip and reclaim roof coverings (required if carrying out this activity)			Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Welsh Apprenticeship	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualification
					Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)
					RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route
RST9	Install components for warm and cold roof construction (required if carrying out this activity)			Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Welsh Apprenticeship	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
					Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)
					RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route
RST10	Install single-lap roof tiles to a fixed gauge (required if carrying out this activity)			Fixed gauge tiling - CITB	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				Welsh Apprenticeship	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)
				Dry-fixed systems	RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route

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Activities		Labourer competency requirements	Individual's competency status	Training	Assessment
RST11	Install natural roof slate to mitred and vertical roof details (required if carrying out this activity)			Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Welsh Apprenticeship	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
					Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)
					RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route
RST12	Install random natural roof slates with diminishing margins (required if carrying out this activity)			Roofer / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education	Roofer (instituteforapprenticeships.org)
				Welsh Apprenticeship	Construction - Roof Slating and Tiling Skills for Wales
				N/SVQ (See available Qualification Tab)	N/SVQ Roofing occupations - CITB (also see Available Qualifications tab)
					Mandatory Technical Competencies (MTCs)
					RoofCERT Experienced Worker Route

Conclusion: Investing in competence for a stronger future

Competence isn't just about ticking boxes—it's about building a skilled, confident, and professional workforce that delivers quality workmanship. For roofing labourers, staying up to date with best practices, safety regulations, and technical skills is crucial for career growth and business success.

Employers who invest in training and accreditation can improve project efficiency, reduce risks, and enhance their company's reputation. Roofers who take ownership of their development can unlock new career opportunities and higher earning potential.

Use this framework as a roadmap to success, ensuring that every Installer Supervisor in roofing meets the highest industry standards. By prioritising competence, we strengthen the future of the roofing industry together.

For support on completing a competency framework for yourself or your staff, please email careers@nfrco.co.uk

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LEADING ROOFING EXCELLENCE