



IMI
AWARDS

Rewarding skills,
inspiring futures

AIR CONDITIONING QUALIFICATIONS

Your routes to regulatory compliance

imiawards.org.uk

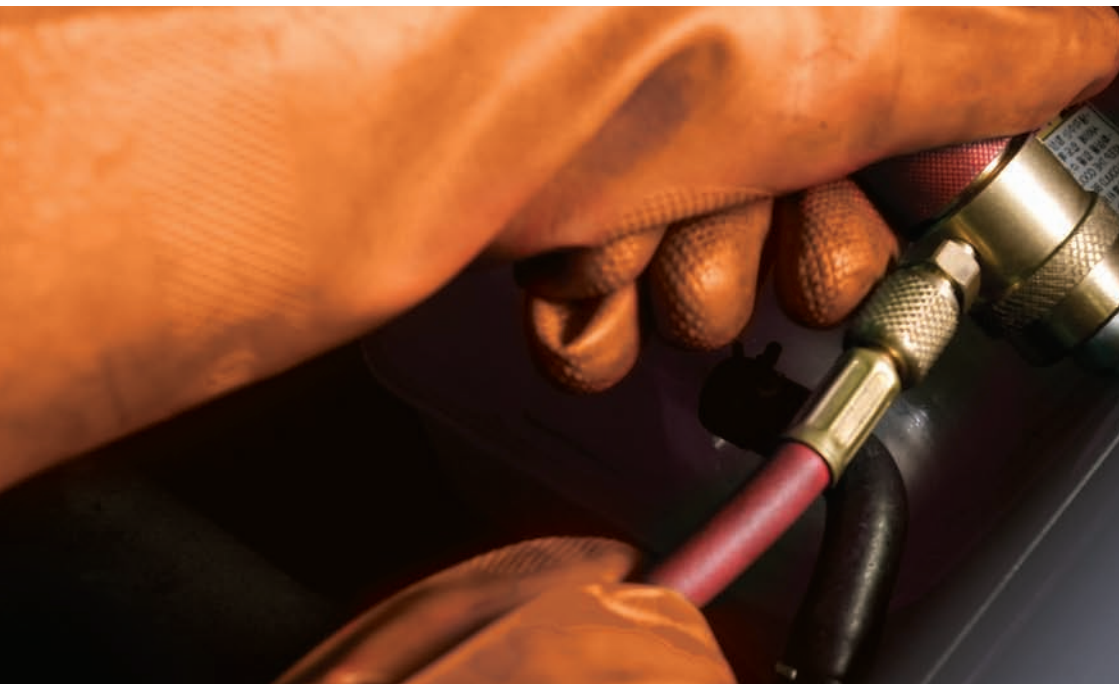


AIR CONDITIONING QUALIFICATIONS

COOL SOLUTIONS TO A HOT TOPIC

From July 4, 2010, all Mobile Air Conditioning (MAC) technicians working with cars and car derived vans must have achieved, as a minimum requirement, a refrigerant handling qualification which fulfils the European Union F Gas (fluorinated greenhouse gas) regulation EC842-2006 and subsequent annex (EC307-2008), which expands on the qualification requirements.

IMI Awards, the leading awarding body for the automotive industry, offers two routes to achieving regulatory compliance. Route one, through a Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) and route two, through Automotive Technician Accreditation (ATA).



Benefits to **employers and individuals:**

If you are an individual technician or have employees working with MAC units, IMI Awards offers the right qualification or assessment level to meet the rapidly approaching deadline. Gaining any of the qualifications or assessments offered here by IMI Awards will show employers and regulatory bodies that the holder has achieved a recognisable qualification.

Benefits to **training centres and colleges:**

By offering any or indeed all of these following courses at your centre now, it will allow the industry time to train and meet the regulatory requirements before the July 4, 2010 deadline. Offering a wider range of automotive qualifications at your centre will allow for either individual or employers' needs to be met by one provider.

ROUTE ONE

VOCATIONALLY RELATED QUALIFICATIONS (VRQs)



Level 3 Award in Automotive Refrigerant Handling (QCF)

(EC842-2006)

Qual Ref: 500/677/1/0

Who is it for?

This single unit VRQ, which is approved by DEFRA, is suitable for competent MAC technicians who have completed a previous qualification, which can include 'in-house' training. MAC technicians must already have a good understanding of components and the system operation to carry out servicing procedures relating to air conditioning systems.

What is the process?

This qualification is assessed by either an on-demand online or paper based test and a practical assessment.

It contains one mandatory unit:

- AC1 Refrigerant Handling (EC842-2006 inc annex EC307-2008)

Level 3 Certificate in Automotive Air Conditioning and Climate Control

(EC842-2006)

Qual Ref: 500/4229/4

Who is it for?

Many motor vehicle technicians have limited experience of qualifications demonstrating their competence in air conditioning components and systems. This qualification provides motor vehicle technicians the opportunity to develop new MAC skills and enhance existing ones.

Most importantly, this qualification provides MAC technicians working with cars and car derived vans with a DEFRA approved qualification, which fulfils the scope of Commission Regulation EC842-2006 and Annex to Commission Regulation EC307-2008 for F-gas.

What is the process?

This is assessed by three on-demand online tests and three practical assessments.

It contains three mandatory units:

- AC1 Refrigerant Handling (EC842-2006 inc annex EC307-2008)
- AC2 Mobile Air Conditioning Principles
- AC3 Advanced Diagnostics for Mobile Air Conditioning and Climate Control Systems

What is achieved with the VRQ routes for the Award and Certificate?

Achievement of either VRQ routes allows MAC technicians to continue to practice after July 4, 2010. Successful candidates will be issued with an IMI Awards certificate which shows they are compliant.

ROUTE TWO

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN ACCREDITATION (ATA)



Air Conditioning Accreditation

Who is it for?

The ATA assessments routes are for individuals with experience of working with air conditioning or hold a recognised qualification and a minimum level of post qualification industry experience. Successful candidates will be issued with an ATA card which shows they are regulatory compliant. There are three levels of accreditation:

- Refrigerant Handler
(Qual Ref: IMIA/AC/1)
- AC Service Technician
(Qual Ref: IMIA/AC/2)
- AC Diagnostic Technician
(Qual Ref: IMIA/AC/3)

What is the process?

The accreditation, which is valid for a period of five years, is achieved via an approved ATA assessment centre. Technicians will be required to undertake a one-day practical assessment and online test. The assessment cost varies between centres. Please contact your nearest centre for exact costs. In addition to the assessment cost, there is a single accreditation fee of £50, which includes registration, online testing and the individual photo identity card.

Assessment fees are exempt from VAT.

Technician pre-requisites

To be eligible for ATA assessment, technicians must possess a minimum level of industry experience in an appropriate role, as follows:

- Refrigerant Handler – 3 months
- Service Technician – 1 year
- Diagnostic Technician – 2 years

Or they must hold a relevant national qualification at the same level and have a minimum level of post qualification experience in an appropriate role, as follows:

- Refrigerant Handler – 3 months
- Service Technician – 6 months
- Diagnostic Technician – 1 year

Receive additional benefits with ATA

Successful technicians receive a personal ATA photo ID card (taken on the day of their assessment) together with the accreditation level, date passed and expiry date. Technicians also receive an ATA welcome letter, an ATA update newsletter every three months and a press release for their employers to use to promote their industry professionalism, and accredited status.

The employer details for accredited technicians are published on the ATA website (automotivetechician.com) so that the public can see where their closest ATA technician works. This is a free advert for businesses, which highlights that they employ technicians who have been independently tested. Technicians' personal details are not published on the website.



IMI
AWARDS

Rewarding skills,
inspiring futures

TAKE ACTION TODAY

Are you an employer or technician wanting to achieve an air conditioning qualification? Simply visit the IMI Awards website – imiawards.org.uk – to find your nearest IMI Awards approved assessment centre. These include further education colleges, training providers, vehicle manufacturers and retail dealership groups. The cost of getting qualified depends on the route you take and is set by the individual IMI Awards approved centres. Please contact them direct for further information.

Would you like to offer these qualifications at your college or training centre?

You will need to be an IMI Awards approved centre to offer any of these qualifications. For more information on the approval process please call **01992 519 038** or email ianc@imiawards.org.uk

If you are already an IMI Awards approved centre, please log in to our website and download form 6 for the VRQs or form 6.2 for ATA, from the operational manual forms area.

IMI Awards Limited

Fanshaws, Brickendon, Hertford, SG13 8PQ

Tel: 01992 519 038 Fax: 01992 519 036

Email: info@imiawards.org.uk

imiawards.org.uk



A member of the IMI Group of companies