

# Support for Small Providers

## New Support for Small Training Providers Applying for the Training Quality Standard

The Training Quality Standard (formerly the new standard) is open to training providers of all sizes, but we recognise that very small organisations require special consideration, both in terms of cost and interpretation of the standard.

In order to address this, we are pleased to announce new support packages for small training providers who wish to apply for accreditation.

### New Pricing Policy

We are offering a new, reduced pricing policy for qualifying small providers:

- £500 registration fee (typically £1,000)
- £3,000 assessment fees (typically £3,500)
- Maximum validation costs of £650 for providers with fewer than 25 employer customers

### Learning from Success

We are keen to learn from small providers' experiences in applying and being assessed for the Standard, and so are looking for up to 75 providers to undergo assessment, the benefit of which will be a significant reduction of their assessment costs.

The outcomes of taking these small providers through this activity will be the development of further guidance, specific to small providers. To do this, we will be collating the learning from small providers involved in the pilot, and other who have been through the assessment process, through a series of evaluative workshops later this year.

### Reduced assessment cost

To help produce the guidance, we are encouraging small training providers to apply now for accreditation.

To qualify for the scheme, small providers must submit their registration form before **2 May 2008**. Participants should also be in a position to submit their application form within ten weeks of registration.

Including this concession, fully qualifying providers will pay typically less than £2,000 for a Part A assessment rather than the standard £6,000 that most providers face. An exact figure will depend upon the number of employers validation is required to cover.

### What qualifies as a Small Provider?

A 'small training provider' meets the following criteria:

- Has 20 FTE employees or fewer
- Has less than £500,000 turnover per annum
- Has no more than one operating site

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## Applicant Training Courses

The registration fee includes a free place at an applicant training course, where two of our experienced assessors will be able to offer advice to small providers on submitting their application.

In addition, we will be holding a small provider training course in early May for those who have registered. Places for this course are limited and demand is expected to be high.

## What is the new standard?

The Training Quality Standard (formerly the new standard) highlights excellence in the two areas that employers have told us are most important to them:

- Provider responsiveness to employer needs
- Provider excellence in a particular vocational area

To date, more than 80 providers have registered or applied for the Standard, with 27 currently accredited.

To find out more about the Standard and to download your registration form, please go to [www.newstandard.co.uk](http://www.newstandard.co.uk) or call 0845 225 1310

new standard