

Clay Quarry Competence Group & The Clay Quarry Managers CPD Scheme

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Version 1 - May 2024

1. What is the CQCG?



The Clay Quarry Competence Group (CQCG) is an industry led forum made up of representatives from brick manufacturers and [Ceramics UK](#), that supports the development and maintenance of competence for individuals in positions of authority in quarries, as defined in the Quarries Regulations 1999.

The group is responsible for the development and implementation of the Clay Quarry Managers Competency Framework and Sector Skills and Competency Strategy and ensures there is a suitable Continual Professional Development (CPD) scheme and CPD opportunities available for those working in the clay quarry sector.*

The group works closely with the Institute of Quarrying (IQ) and the Heavy Clay Technology Association (HCTa) to ensure a joined-up approach.

For more information, contact Laurend@ceramics-uk.org

**The focus of the CQCG is the heavy clay sector but work also supports the broader clay sector.*

2. What is HCTa?



The mission of the Heavy Clay Technology Association (HCTa) is to promote heavy clay technology on a UK and international basis and provide its members with opportunities to broaden their professional outlook, skills and qualifications.

HCTa aims to continually improve its provision of courses which provide technical meetings, events, education and training and local networking through local societies to the industry.

HCTa works in partnership with IQ and is a group within the IQ structure.

Website: <https://www.quarrying.org/hcta-home>

3. What is IQ?



IQ is the Institute of Quarrying.

It was founded over 100 years ago by four people with a vision for the mineral products industry. They wanted the industry to come together to raise standards, share knowledge and be recognised as highly skilled professionals, which are the principles that guide the IQ today.

The role of IQ is to promote the positive impact of the minerals industry, the career opportunities available and support professionals working within it.

It is a professional membership organisation and runs a minerals sector CPD scheme. See Question 5 for more information about how this relates to the Clay Quarry Managers CPD Scheme.

Website: <https://www.quarrying.org/>

4. What is the link between CQCG, HCTa and IQ?

The CQCG works closely with the IQ and HCTa to ensure a joined-up approach, drawing on the knowledge, experience and expertise of the wider minerals industry and participating in established programmes and initiatives, building on these where needed to support the needs of the clay sector.



5. What is the Clay Quarry Manager CPD Scheme?

Continual Professional Development (CPD) is required for all individuals who have clay quarry management responsibilities as part of their job role, as set out in the Quarry Regulations 1999.

IQ is a professional membership organisation and runs a minerals sector CPD scheme. Within the clay sector, the IQ CPD scheme is recommended, but individuals / companies may decide to participate in an alternative scheme.

Participants in the IQ CPD scheme who work within the heavy clay sector complete their CPD as set out in the IQ Guidance (www.quarrying.org/members/iq-cpd). However, the assessment process is different as suitably experienced members of the CQCG assess each submission annually, not as an ongoing participant sampling approach, which is applied to the broader scheme.

This enables heavy clay scheme members to be provided with extra support if needed and also provides insight into the CPD needs within the sector, informing the Clay Quarry Managers Competency Framework and Sector Skills and Competency Strategy.

It should also be noted that CQCG assessors will complete the CPD assessments following IQ protocol and there will be close involvement and moderation by IQ to ensure there is a consistent approach.

The annual CPD submission and assessment cycle is as follows:

- **Scheme year:** 1st January – 31st December. CPD should be updated throughout the year, with all content submitted by the 31st December.
- **CPD Assessment:** January – March following the end of the previous scheme year.
- Number of CPD scheme participants assessed: 100%

6. How do I register for the Clay Quarry Manager CPD scheme?

You can register for the Clay Quarry Manager CPD scheme on the IQ website. The online application can be found by pressing the gold 'Join IQ Now!' button on the [IQ Website Homepage](#).

In the first instance, registrants from the heavy clay sector will come under the HCTa banner. However, please notify the IQ Membership Officer if you also wish to be added to the sub-section covering the Clay Quarry Managers CPD scheme on the IQ system.

Please note:

- The information provided when completing the application is the basis of the IQ grading and approval process.
- If paying yourself, please complete the application as fully as possible and make payment by card at the end of the application.
- To pay by purchase order complete the application up to the payment screen and then 'x' out of it. This submits it far enough for IQ to raise an invoice. Please then send Debbie White either a copy of the PO or the PO number, along with the accounts/invoice postal address and email address. An invoice will then be raised.
- If your company is paying for your membership as a group of applications, please complete the application as fully as possible up to the payment screen and then 'x' out of the application. Either advise your company contact or Debbie White that you have completed the application for inclusion on a Group Invoice.

Registration queries should be sent to the IQ Membership Officer, email: debbie.white@quarrying.org.

7. How do I find out about CPD opportunities?

There are lots of ways that you can find out about CPD opportunities.

- The [IQ Skills Wheel](#) provides an overview of the core skills and areas of knowledge that all employees in the mineral products industry should aim to be effective beyond the basics of the job itself. This links to the [IQ CPD Programme](#) which includes lots of CPD opportunities.
- If you have registered with IQ, you will be sent regular updates about events.
- Information about events organised by HCTa or the CQCG are available on the IQ website and will also be sent to you if you have registered your interest in these groups with IQ (see Question 6).
- Speak to your line manager or colleagues about opportunities for work-based learning at your company.

8. Who can I contact for more information?

- **Clay Quarry Competence Group**
For more information about the CQCG, contact Lauren Darby at Ceramics UK. Email: Laurend@ceramics-uk.org.
- **Heavy Clay Technology Association**
For more information about HCTa, use the contact form [here](#).
- **Institute of Quarrying**
For more information about IQ, contact mail@quarrying.org