



Training Information Sheet

Choosing the Right Training

Operatives qualified in the Lightning Protection or Steeplejack sectors should hold one of the following qualifications relevant to their sector:

- **S/NVQ Level 2 in Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Lightning Conductor Engineer**
- **S/NVQ Level 2 in Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Steeplejack.**

Further to the S/NVQ Level 2, there are 3 additional qualifications available within the Sector:

- **S/NVQ Level 3 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Lightning Conductor Engineer**
- **S/NVQ Level 3 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Steeplejack**
- **S/NVQ Level 3 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction) Lightning Protective Systems Inspection and Testing.**

Obtaining an S/NVQ

Depending on the level of experience and competence of the operative, there are a number of training routes available to obtain an S/NVQ:

- **A new entrant with no previous experience in construction**
An apprenticeship programme is available at the National Construction College (NCC) - East at Bircham Newton residential campus in January each year
- **Experienced steeplejack and lightning protection operatives**
Experienced Worker Practical Assessment (EWPA) or Onsite Assessment and Training (OSAT)
- **Operatives with experience in lightning protection, but limited knowledge of inspection and testing**
Specialist Upskilling Programme (SUP).

When registering an operative for an S/NVQ, a training provider will carry out a pre-course interview to assess and profile the operative's existing skills and assign them to the appropriate training route.

Training Routes

Course	Type of Candidate	Duration	Delivery	Training & Assessment	Cost	CITB Grant
Apprenticeship	New entrants with no previous experience who would like to achieve an S/NVQ Level 2. Aged 16+	2 years.	2 years at the National Construction College in 3-4 week blocks.	The employer must allow for off-site training and provide a mentor for the apprentice. The apprentice must complete a portfolio.	Free to CITB levy-registered employers.	£6,000 + 10% supplementary payment, (if eligible) TOTAL GRANT= £6,600 Additional incentive available for eligible employers of new apprentices via the National Apprenticeship Service .
Experience Worker Practical Assessment (EWPA)	Experienced operatives who would like to achieve an S/NVQ Level 2. Must have experience within the Lightning Conductor or Steeplejack Sector.	Typically 2-3 intensive days off-site at the National Construction College.	A weekend at the National Construction College.	The employer must allow for off-site assessment.	£1,000 - £1,600 plus expenses via NCC - East	NVQ achievement grant = £400 + 10% supplementary payment, (if eligible). TOTAL GRANT = £440.
On-Site Assessment and Training (OSAT)	Experienced operatives who would like to achieve an S/NVQ Level 2 or Level 3. Must have 2 years' experience working within the Lightning Conductor or Steeplejack Sector. Require 4 days or less of training.	Typically 4-5 assessor visits over 1 year.	On site assessment and training.	The employer must allow for on-site assessment. The operative must complete a portfolio.	£1,000 - £1,300 plus expenses.	NVQ achievement grant = £400 + 10% supplementary payment, (if eligible). TOTAL GRANT = £440.
Specialist Upskilling Programme (SUP)	Operatives – within Lightning Conductor Engineering experience but with limited Inspection and Testing experience. Operatives will achieve an S/NVQ Level 3. Require a minimum of 5 days occupational training.	12 months.	5 days off-site training plus a minimum of 1 assessor visit.	The employer must allow for 5 days off-site training and on-site assessment. The operative must complete a portfolio.	ATLAS Members - £1,950 + VAT SLPTG Members - £2,925 + VAT Non-members - £3,900 + VAT	£2,100 + 10% supplementary payment, (if eligible). TOTAL GRANT = £2,310.

How to Apply for an Apprenticeship

To apply for an apprenticeship in either Steeplejacking or Lightning Conductor Engineering, please apply at the [bConstructive website](#). Once you have applied, you will be matched with a suitable employer in your area.

The application process will include a Skills Learning Exercise test (SLE) which you can complete online or in a classroom if you have special learning needs. The test is used to ensure that you are provided with any support which you may need to complete your apprenticeship.

Training at college begins in January each year, and applications should be received before the end of October.

Please note that to be an apprentice within the Industry you will need to be able to work at height and you should take this into consideration before applying.

Further Training and Development

For those who are keen to develop and progress in the workplace there are a number of general courses which are available to operatives and managers in Health and Safety, Leadership and Management.

Health and Safety courses including the Site Safety Passport (SSP) Suite and National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) can help business create a safer, more efficient working environment which could help businesses to mitigate risks and stay compliant.

Leadership and Management courses include NVQ Level 3 in Construction Site Supervision, NVQ Level 6 in Construction Site Management and short duration courses in Management. These courses have a number of benefits including increasing motivation and productivity which can have a positive effect on the business.

The Steeplejack and Lightning Protection Training Group (SLPTG) organises a range of training and development courses each year, either free of charge or at low cost. Courses include training for operatives in areas such as Anchors for Steeplejacks, Safe Earth Testing and Working at Height for Lightning Engineers. For details of the training courses currently available from SLPTG, please visit the [SLPTG website](#).

Manufacturers' Training

Further training is available from sector manufacturers including A.N. Wallis, DEHN and Furse, who are able to deliver CPD presentations to consultants and industry related partners on Earthing, Lightning Protection Standards and Surge Protection. For further information regarding the courses available, please contact the manufacturer directly.

Finding a Training Provider

	Apprenticeship	Experienced Worker Practical Assessment (EWPA)	Onsite Assessment and Training (OSAT)	Specialist Upskilling Programme (SUP)
National Construction College – East Bircham Newton, Norfolk	✓	✓		
OSATS, Norfolk			✓	
Millbrook First Ltd, Norfolk		✓	✓	
Association of Technical Lightning and Access Specialists (ATLAS)				✓

Contact Details

National Construction College (NCC) – East	01485 577 770 nationalconstruction.college@cskills.org
A.N. Wallis	0115 927 1721 info@an-wallis.com
DEHN	01484 859 111 info@dehn.co.uk
Furse	0115 964 3700 enquiryuk@tnb.com
OSATS	07515 112532 davidgaughran@osats.org
Millbrook First Ltd	01362 691 341 hello@millbrookfirst.co.uk