



Know your training provider

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has highlighted incompetent trainers and inadequate training as key factors in many workplace accidents. Unfortunately, it's often only after such accidents that employers find out how good their training provider really is.

When accidents happen, employers are responsible for showing they have provided appropriate training for their employees. Their training organisation may also have to prove their abilities to third parties, such as the HSE. So it's vital that companies research their training providers thoroughly and only use those which comply with health and safety regulations.

Choosing the right training provider

The HSE advises employers to make sure their external training provider has:

- a clear understanding of the company's needs
- at least two years' proven industrial experience
- relevant experience and teaching qualifications or professional accreditation
- adequate insurance
- practical courses that meet agreed requirements.

Martin James, Commercial Director, Didac Limited, commented: "Employers need to make sure they get the right training for their organisation from an approved training provider with the relevant qualifications.

"There is nothing to stop individuals or companies deciding to provide training in wood machining, but often they don't have the right qualifications or suitable industrial experience, nor offer adequate quality checks. Equally, a supplier who specialises in machine commissioning is unlikely to provide the required foundation training on classical machinery.

"Training providers, whether colleges or independents like Didac, who deliver training programmes to the wood sector, should have a range of programmes in place. These could include qualifications from an awarding body such as City and Guilds, CITB or PIABC. Providers that are subject to quality inspections by Ofsted should bring a degree of confidence to the employer.

"All training should meet health and safety requirements, and managers and supervisors should also be included in appropriate training sessions, to keep them up-to-date with supervisory responsibilities. Ask for testimonials from previous customers to back up the provider's claims."

Didac's credentials as a safe training provider

One of two organisations that currently look after the wood sector for qualification development, Proskills is an awarding body that helps champion high-quality industrial skills.

Jonathan Ledger, CEO Proskills, said: "We have seen first-hand the depth and scope of Didac's training provision. One of our key performance indicators is feedback from employers and Didac gets consistently good reviews."

Notes to editors:

Didac Limited provides specialist training and consultancy services to the furniture, wood and merchant sectors, and has established a reputation for delivering high-quality training, including:

- Apprenticeships
 - Wood machining
 - Furniture making
 - Bench joinery
 - Shopfitting
 - Saw milling
 - Tooling technologies
 - Business skills (trade business services, management, tile merchandising)
- Short courses
 - Wood machine training and competency
 - Abrasive wheels
 - Managing and supervising employees who use woodworking machinery.

Many of the courses Didac provides are monitored by awarding bodies including City & Guilds, ILM and PIABC, Occupational Awards, as well as the Skills Funding Agency, Matrix and Ofsted. Didac is also an approved provider for apprenticeships and offers funding flexibilities, opportunities and accreditations.

Didac's experienced team of trainers and assessors have all worked in industry and are experts in delivery. The company enjoys close working relationships with all the major industry and regulatory bodies, including a large number of trade associations, machine and tooling manufacturers and the HSE.