



Assessment Agencies for Professional Qualifications Frequently Asked Questions

A. Accreditation

1. What are AAPQ and PQAA?

The Accreditation of Assessment Agencies for Professional Qualifications (AAPQ) is a scheme to take forward the alignment of professional qualifications under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF). Professional Qualifications Assessment Agency (PQAA) refers to an institution, organisation or other body who is appointed by the Secretary for Education (SED). An appointed PQAA is responsible for developing and operating Professional Qualifications for the industry, developing a robust assessment to assess individual and issuing QF-recognised Professional Qualifications to individual and register them in the Qualifications Register (QR).

Please refer to [HKCAAVQ website](#) for more details.

2. What are the major impacts to the learners after HKIB is accredited as PQAA?

The learners can be awarded the QF-recognised Professional Qualifications. The professional status of the Professional Qualifications holders can be further enhanced with the well-recognised Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) standards.

3. What is the difference between Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA) and Accreditation of Assessment Agencies for Professional Qualifications (AAPQ)?

The training, assessment and certification process for both LPA and AAPQ are the same. The major difference is the recognition under the Qualifications Framework (QF) lies at the Programme Level or Professional Qualification Level. For LPA, learners will be awarded a QF-recognised Certificate/Diploma upon completion of the training and passing the assessment. For AAPQ, candidates will be awarded a QF-recognised Professional Qualifications upon completion of the training and passing the assessment as well as fulfilling HKIB's required working experience.

4. What are the benefits I can get from AAPQ?

There are numerous benefits not just to the candidates, but also to other stakeholders.

For candidates:

- A clear path to achieve professionalism and career development



- Enhance mobility within the industry with a strong and recognised professional qualification
- Provide more flexibility and a streamlined training journey
- Faster attainment of local professional qualification by overseas professionals via the cross-region/international mutual recognition

For employers:

- A common qualification benchmark
- A more efficient and streamlined training journey
- An effective use of training budget
- Fulfilment of regulatory expectations and requirements
- Increased recruitment efficiency

For banking industry/government/other stakeholders:

- A transparent set of professional standards for attracting local and international talent to the industry
- Aligned standards to support capacity building
- Higher competency of individual practitioners to ensure the quality and sustainability of talent pool
- Enhanced industry reputation locally and globally

5. Which HKIB's Professional Qualifications are accredited and in what QF Levels are being pitched at under AAPQ?

There are nine HKIB QF-recognised Professional Qualifications pitched at QF Levels 4 to 6. They are listed as below:

QF Level	Category	QF-recognised Professional Qualifications under AAPQ	QR Registration No.
Level 4	ECF	Associate Anti-Money Laundering Professional (AAML P)	20/000535/L4
	ECF	Associate Retail Wealth Professional (AR WP)	20/000536/L4
	ECF	Associate Cybersecurity Professional (AC sP)	20/000537/L4
Level 5	ECF	Certified Anti-Money Laundering Professional (CAML P)	20/000538/L5
	ECF	Certified Retail Wealth Professional (CR WP)	20/000539/L5
	ECF	Associate Credit Risk Management Professional (AC RP)	20/000540/L5
Level 6	ECF	Certified Credit Risk Management Professional (Commercial Lending) (CCRP (CL))	20/000541/L6
	ECF	Certified Credit Risk Management Professional (Credit Portfolio Management) (CCRP (CPM))	20/000542/L6
	CB	Certified Banker (CB)	20/000543/L6



6. How does AAPQ affect my existing learning pathway?

Your existing learning pathway remains unchanged.

7. Can I have an option to choose a QF-recognised Certificate or a QF-recognised Professional Qualification?

During the transitional period, we offer different options for different Professional Qualifications based on the programme structure and the learning status of the learners.

For more details, please refer to the transitional arrangement details for each Professional Qualification which will be available on the HKIB website in late August 2020. Please stay tuned.

8. How do the general public know I am a holder of a QF-recognised Professional Qualification or a non-QF-recognised Professional Qualification?

For those with a QF-recognised or a non-QF-recognised Professional Qualification, the general public can check the status on the Registers of Certified Individuals (CI) in the Membership page of the HKIB website.

9. How will the QF level be affected after AAPQ?

The QF Level of the nine Professional Qualifications is benchmarked with the current relevant QF-recognised programmes (i.e. CB – QF Level 6). Thus, there is no change on the QF Level of the nine Professional Qualifications under AAPQ.

10. Why CB Stage I and CB Stage II are not accredited as QF-recognised Professional Qualifications?

The assessment structure for these two Professional Qualifications is under review and they are considered to be added as QF-recognised Professional Qualifications in the future.

11. What are the roles of an appointed PQAA under the Qualifications Framework (QF)?

In accordance with [Guidance Notes of AAPQ by HKCAAVQ](#), the roles of the appointed PQAA are:

- To assess the knowledge, skills and experience acquired by individuals in relation to a profession or industry; and



- To issue the Professional Qualifications it has developed and operates in recognition of such assessed knowledge, skills and experience. The qualifications selected for accreditation would be recognised under the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework (HKQF) and registered in the Qualifications Register (QR).

12. Where can I obtain further information about AAPQ and PQAA?

For further details about the accreditation of Assessment Agencies for Professional Qualifications, please visit the website of HKCAAVQ at

https://www.hkcaavq.edu.hk/en/services/accreditation/other_accreditation_services_under_QF.

For further details about the recognition of Professional Qualifications under the HKQF, please visit the website of the Qualifications Framework (QF) at

<https://www.hkqf.gov.hk/en/rpq/index.html>.

B. Training

13. Is there any change in terms of programme structure (e.g. training contents, syllabus, learning hours, entry requirements, etc.) after HKIB is appointed as PQAA?

The programme structure remains unchanged under AAPQ. However, regular programme review will still be done for quality assurance purpose. Hence the programme structure may be adjusted whenever necessary.

14. I have partially completed the programme (completed the training and assessment of some of the modules) before AAPQ, is there any impact on my learning plan?

After AAPQ, you can continue to pursue the completion of the remaining training and assessment. Upon the completion of the training and passing the assessment under AAPQ and the fulfilment of the required number of years of relevant working experience, you will be eligible to apply for respective QF-recognised Professional Qualifications under AAPQ.

For learners who have enrolled and started the training before AAPQ, special transitional arrangement for different Professional Qualifications will be offered. Please refer to the transitional arrangement details which will be available on HKIB website in late August 2020. Please stay tuned.



C. Assessment

15. I have completed the respective module training before HKIB is appointed as PQAA but have not yet attended the respective assessment, can I enrol the assessment after HKIB is appointed as PQAA?

Yes, you can still enrol the assessment after HKIB is appointed as PQAA. When you pass the assessment under **LPA**, you will be awarded a QF-recognised Certificate/Diploma. When you pass the assessment under **AAPQ**, you will be awarded a non-QF-recognised Certificate/Diploma. With further fulfilment of relevant work experience and meeting requirements of certification, you will be awarded a QF-recognised Professional Qualification.

16. Do I need to complete training before attending the assessment after AAPQ?

The requirement of completion of training before attending the assessment remains unchanged. The objective of this requirement is to facilitate learners in acquiring sufficient professional knowledge and guidance from the trainers as well as with opportunities to share practical experience with other learners before attending the assessment.

17. I have completed the training before AAPQ, but failed in the assessment. What is the major impact on me?

Learners will be given an opportunity to re-sit an assessment and tentatively two more attempts will be available under LPA within a timeframe while assessments under AAPQ will also be available for you. Same as before, there is no limit to the attempts of assessment.

For more details, please refer to the transitional arrangement details which will be available on HKIB website in late August 2020. Please stay tuned.

18. Is there any change of the exemption policy under AAPQ?

Under AAPQ, the exemption policy of respective Professional Qualifications remains unchanged.



D. Certification

19. Will my existing non-QF-recognised Professional Qualifications be affected under AAPQ?

No, the existing non-QF-recognised Professional Qualifications remain valid and they are still being recognised by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).

20. Currently I am a non-QF-recognised Professional Qualification holder, how could I get a QF-recognised Professional Qualification after AAPQ?

If you are currently a holder of HKIB non-QF-recognised Professional Qualification, you are not required to attain the QF-recognised Professional Qualification. It is because both QF-recognised and non-QF-recognised Professional Qualifications are recognised by the HKMA and the Banking industry in Hong Kong.

However, if you would like to pursue for a “QF-recognised” Professional Qualification, you need to take the assessment under AAPQ and apply for the certification application again.

21. Is there any change of the certification application process under AAPQ?

The certification application process remains unchanged.

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