

What are Regulatory Compliance Officer (RCO) Apprenticeships and how does the CTSI Professional Competency Framework (CPCF) relate to these?

The Regulatory Compliance Officer apprenticeship is an approved standard under the apprenticeship framework allowing England-based employers to draw in the apprenticeship levy to fund training and end point assessment.

The standard provides a single route of entry to the entire spectrum of regulatory delivery roles in both the public and private sectors. The standard is designed to provide the underpinning skills, knowledge and behaviours (competencies) required of all those wishing to work in any professional role where regulatory compliance oversight is required. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, participants have all of the transferable skills needed to work in any regulatory/compliance-based field.

Recent evaluation has shown that since its roll out in February 2018 there has been a healthy pipeline of RCO apprenticeships coming through from a variety of organisations.

How does the CTSI Professional Competency Framework (CPCF) relate to these?

CTSI was very much involved in the development of this apprenticeship which also enabled the standard of the RCO to be aligned with Level 1 of CTSI's Professional Competency Framework (CPCF). Effectively this means that local authorities, businesses and national regulators can access the apprenticeship levy to pay for the RCO apprenticeship training and then the Apprentice can apply for a part exemption against Level 1 of CPCF. The information below states the exemptions available.

- Unit 1 Regulatory Environment and Enforcement (entire unit);
- Unit 2 Business and Consumer Legal Frameworks (entire unit); and
- Unit 3 Trading Standards Law Part 1 – 2000-word project only

The plan is to do similar with the proposed Trading Standards Practitioner L6 apprenticeship i.e., to deliver a credit against the higher levels of CPCF.

The Trading Standards Practitioner L6 apprenticeship

The proposed Trading Standards Practitioner L6 will provide a standard that is distinct as it will be designed to provide the underpinning skills, knowledge and behaviours (competencies) required to lead and manage inspections, other intervention duties to assess levels of compliance, information resources and operations, ensure that systems are established evaluated, planned, implemented and monitored to enable effective delivery of interventions. A Trading standards practitioner at this Level 6 would also manage and lead a Regulatory compliance officer in their duties and development.

Improving the sustainability and diversity of our profession

By supporting the development of relevant Apprenticeship Schemes and by highlighting other Government initiatives such as the Kickstart scheme and Job Entry Targeted Support Scheme, CTSI is encouraging local authorities to employ apprentices and new starters from all parts of the community to ensure the much-needed diversity and sustainability of our profession going forward.