
LIC-VQ-PECS

Independent Licensed Premises Training — What Stands Behind It

For employers, premises licence holders and licensing officers · the legal position, the myths, and our audit trail

The legal position — in one paragraph

There is no requirement that underage sales, drugs awareness or DPS training be delivered by, or accredited by, a specific awarding body. The legal test is whether the training was adequate and evidenced — for example, all due diligence under s.146(4), or the competence expected of a DPS under s.19. PHW Services delivers and evidences that training directly.

The myths, answered

MYTH: “You need an accredited course for it to count.” — Independent training is valid when it is delivered by a competent provider and properly evidenced. Accreditation is one route to that; it is not the only one.

MYTH: “Only BIIAB or a similar awarding body’s course is defensible.” — BIIAB’s APLH and ADPS are Ofqual-regulated qualifications required for the personal licence and, optionally, the DPS role itself. This VQ is a different, complementary product — staff due diligence and DPS operational competence training, not the regulated licence qualification.

MYTH: “If it isn’t an NVQ, it doesn’t count as evidence.” — The due diligence defence and DPS competence are tested on the facts, not on whether the training carried a qualification framework code.

What stands behind every certificate we issue

- A signed K&U questioning record, a marked written test, and a signed practical/operational sign-off — retained for at least two years.
- A Premises Verification Statement, available on request, setting out the legal basis and assessment detail in full.
- Honest National Occupational Standards alignment — stated where it genuinely exists, and stated plainly where it doesn’t.

Scope and limitations — read before use

IMPORTANT — SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS. This document is a template and guidance product. It is a starting point, not a finished assessment. Every premises is different, and only the premises licence holder and the DPS know their own site, staff and operation. This is a PHW Services competence-based Vocational Qualification (VQ): structured training with recorded knowledge questioning, a written test and signed assessment records. It is NOT a regulated qualification (NVQ/RQF) and is not issued by, or equivalent to, any awarding organisation. Where an equivalent regulated qualification exists (for example BIIAB’s Ofqual-regulated Level 2/3 Awards), that is a different product requiring an approved centre — this VQ does not claim to be it, or to substitute for it. The legal duties under the Licensing Act 2003 and all other relevant law remain with the premises licence holder and the DPS at all times and cannot be transferred to PHW Services or to any document. Seek competent legal advice where you are unsure.