

Recognition of Prior Learning and Selected IASC SSC Job Roles

What is RPL?

RPL is intended for candidates with prior learning experience or existing skills who are willing to get assessed and certified in a relevant job role.

The scheme guidelines state that, in the case of RPL, prior experience is required in the job role for which certification is being sought, and the age group for RPL candidates is 18–59 years. It also places explicit emphasis on re-skilling and up-skilling through innovation in assessment and better monitoring.

Role of Sector Skill Councils

Sector Skill Councils plays an important implementation role in promoting industry connect, conducting skill gap studies, developing curriculum, facilitating On-the-Job Training, supporting Training of Trainers and Assessors, and contributing to overall scheme implementation. This is important because sector-led qualification packs and occupational standards help ensure that training and certification remain relevant to actual workplace requirements.

Selected IASC SSC Job Roles

1. Junior Instrumentation Technician (Process Control) (IAS/Q3003)-

Junior Instrumentation Technician (Process Control) assists with site or plant readiness, instrument usability, and preventive maintenance under supervision and guidance. The role is important because it supports the reliability and safety of process-control environments by helping maintain readiness of instruments and basic maintenance discipline at the shop-floor level.

For an RPL proposal, a practical proposed notional hour is 30, depending on candidate experience, gap assessment results, and the extent of bridge orientation needed before assessment.

2. Cabling Technician (IAS/Q5603)-

Cabling Technician is a multi-skilled role responsible for planning and laying different types of cables and carrying out termination and interconnection work in environments such as process plants and factories. This role is important because industrial automation, instrumentation, surveillance, and communication systems depend on high-quality cable routing, termination, and connectivity for safe and reliable performance.

For RPL, a reasonable proposed notional hour is 30 so that experienced workers can receive safety orientation, standards refreshers, and focused gap-bridging before assessment.

3. Industrial Automation Technician (IAS/Q5601)-

Industrial Automation Technician is responsible for installation of control panels, integrating them with the customer's system, and assisting the engineer in commissioning and powering up at the customer site. This role is important because it directly supports implementation and commissioning of automation systems that improve productivity, process consistency, and operational efficiency in industry.

For RPL, a suitable proposed notional hour is 30, since candidates may need structured refreshers in installation practices, integration steps, documentation, and commissioning safety.

4. PLC Programmer and Troubleshooter (IAS/Q5604)-

Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) Programmer and Troubleshooter are responsible for developing, testing, and commissioning PLC programs and for identifying and fixing errors in industrial machines and process systems. This role is important because PLC logic is central to automated process control, and effective troubleshooting reduces downtime, improves reliability, and supports safe industrial operations.

For RPL, a practical proposed notional hour is 30, because experienced workers often need role-specific refreshers in PLC software, testing methods, documentation, and fault diagnosis before final assessment.

Proposed notional hours

Although there is no fixed duration for these four job roles under RPL, in the extracted sections reviewed here, they clearly position RPL as assessment-led certification with emphasis on upskilling and bridge learning where needed. Accordingly, the following proposed bands are suitable for planning purposes-

S. No.	Job Role	QP Code	Proposed RPL notional hours
1	Junior Instrumentation Technician (Process Control)	IAS/Q3003	30 hours
2	Cabling Technician	IAS/Q5603	30 hours
3	Industrial Automation Technician	IAS/Q5601	30 hours
4	PLC Programmer and Troubleshooter	IAS/Q5604	30 hours

Basis for the proposed hours

These proposed hours are based on three practical considerations: the complexity of the job role, the official total notional hours of the full qualification pack, and the likely need for bridge orientation before RPL assessment. Lower-hour bands are more suitable for candidates with strong prior experience and limited competency gaps, while higher-hour bands are more suitable where safety, programming, commissioning, or troubleshooting demands a stronger refresher component.

In implementation, the final hours should be decided after candidate screening, evidence of prior experience, and a documented gap analysis against the relevant qualification pack and NOS requirements. This approach preserves the core purpose of RPL: formally recognizing existing skills while still ensuring quality, safety, and industry relevance.