

## **Syllabus Version 5.0**

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### **What is ECDL Syllabus Version 5.0?**

ECDL Syllabus Version 5.0 (Syllabus 5.0) is a revision of the ECDL Core syllabus which reflects the ongoing advances in technologies and relevant practices. It lists the skills that must be mastered and the knowledge that must be attained for a Candidate to receive the ECDL Core certification.

For a more complete description of the changes in the syllabus, please reference the Frequently Asked Questions in this document. In addition, a detailed item-level comparison document ('**ECDL Syllabus Version 5.0 - Item Comparison Syllabus 4.0 to 5.0**') is available to download from our website [www.ics-skills.ie](http://www.ics-skills.ie)

## **Why was Syllabus 5.0 developed?**

The main principles underlying the revision of the syllabus were the need to accommodate technological changes in today's fast developing ICT world, improve Syllabus 4.0 definitions and add new structures.

## **What is new in Syllabus 5.0?**

The essential structure of seven (7) modules remains. New areas accommodated include understanding key features of personal devices and new communication technologies. Accessibility was an important consideration in developing the syllabus with assistive technology being addressed, and plain language being used in both the syllabus and the tests. The main changes in Syllabus 5.0 are:

**Technological change:** Syllabus 5.0 reflects the uses of new applications and devices. It covers innovations in mobile computing and considers new areas in communications (eg. Voice over IP) and new media (eg. podcasting). Syllabus 5.0 also provides answers on how to manage newly emerged security threats, such as 'phishing' and 'spy ware'.

**Enhancement:** Good practice items that address generally accepted ways of approaching particular tasks have been added to the syllabus. Some Category and Skill Set names have been changed or deleted, and some task items have been added, edited, or repositioned to ensure a more logical flow.

In addition, typical interactions with databases are now focused more on usage than creation, and the 'Database' module has changed to reflect this, while still retaining important practical elements. In line with this, this module has been renamed 'Using Databases'.

## **Who developed Syllabus 5.0?**

Syllabus 5.0 was developed by ECDL Foundation through a rigorous development process that incorporated inputs from computer users, subject matter experts, and practicing computer professionals from all over the world. Comments and feedback made by Candidates, Test Centres and Courseware developers involved in Syllabus 4.0 were integral to the development process.

## **Will the certification based on Syllabus 4.0 remain valid after launching Syllabus 5.0?**

Yes, the certification based on Syllabus 4.0 will remain valid. This certification proves that a Candidate has demonstrated particular core skills at a certain point in time.

ECDL Update for SV5 test will be available to centres from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008. This is a certification that confirms the competence of a candidate's original ECDL, taking account of new syllabus items and new software releases.

## **What is the retirement date for Syllabus 4.0?**

31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 is the retirement date for Syllabus 4.0.

## **What if Candidates have already passed tests for some modules of Syllabus 4.0 and are about to take tests for other modules soon?**

A Skills Card remains valid for three (3) years. Candidates can complete the remaining modules and sit the tests under the new syllabus. Attention should be brought to the Candidate regarding the changes to the Syllabus so that they are prepared for the Syllabus 5.0 tests.

Licences issued will reflect the majority of modules completed (i.e. a candidate that completes 4 modules with Syllabus 5.0, should be awarded an ECDL Syllabus 5.0 certificate).

## **Can SV4 tests be used as Sample tests once SV5 is in use?**

No previous versions of the QTB may be used as sample tests, Sample tests for SV5 will be available on [www.ics-skills.ie](http://www.ics-skills.ie) from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008

## **When will automated tests be ready?**

Most of the automated test providers and courseware providers will have material available for September 2008.

## **When will ECDL Update test for SV5 be available?**

ECDL Update is a certification for current Licence holders who want to update their skills and receive the most current ECDL Licence. It is only available to candidates who have previously achieved ECDL. SV5 Update test will be available for Update centres to download from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008

## **Will modular certificates be available for SV5?**

Yes, ECDL modular certification is available now. Candidates wishing to complete just one or more of the ECDL modules can receive modular certification. Candidates purchase a skills card as usual. If they wish to receive certification after successfully completing one module a copy of the completed skills card is sent to ICS Skills. This is processed into a module certificate. If the candidate completes another ECDL module within the 3 year time frame then the same procedure is followed. There is a twenty euro fee for each additional cert issued after the first one.

## **When do centres have to start testing SV5?**

All new centres accredited after September 1st 2008 will have to train and test to SV5. Likewise, all new candidates starting an ECDL programme after September 1st 2008 will have to take SV5 tests. By 31st December 2009, no further testing will be allowed on SV4.

## **Transition Period**

1<sup>st</sup> June 2008 - Introduction of Syllabus 5.0 to existing test centres. Manual Tests available for use by any test centre from this date.

1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 - All newly accredited test centres will be accredited to test SV5 only

1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 - All new candidates in all centres

1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 all tests will be SV5 (no more SV 4.0 testing)

## **Are sample tests available for SV5?**

Yes sample part tests will be available from 1st June 2008

## **Do testers need to re-attend Tester Training to teach Syllabus 5?**

No. Provided testers have an Accredited Tester Certificate issued within the last 5 years, they do not have to re-attend a training session in order to teach or test syllabus 5. Trainers must make themselves familiar with the new syllabus in order to prepare candidates adequately for SV5 tests.

## **How do I prepare to introduce SV5 in my centre?**

Download SV5 from [www.ics-skills.net](http://www.ics-skills.net)

Download MQTB from [www.ics-skills.net](http://www.ics-skills.net)

Ensure all trainers and testers are familiar with the changes in SV5 and the tests

Ensure trainers are covering the full content of SV5 and that training materials are adjusted accordingly

## **What are the implications for an existing Test centre?**

For a limited period, existing centres may be running both SV4 and SV5 simultaneously. Records need to be maintained for both