

**1. TITLE OF THE CERTIFICATE (DE) <sup>(1)</sup>****Lehrabschlussprüfungszeugnis Kunststofftechnologie**<sup>(1)</sup> in original language**2. TRANSLATED TITLE OF THE CERTIFICATE (EN) <sup>(2)</sup>****Certificate of Apprenticeship “Plastics Technology” (f/m)**<sup>(2)</sup> This translation has no legal status.**3. PROFILE OF SKILLS AND COMPETENCES****Specialist areas of competence:****Fundamentals of plastics technology and materials engineering**

The professional is familiar with the fundamentals of plastics processing, starting with the plastics and additives used, the tools and machines used in plastics processing to the plastics machines for processing plastics, including the specialist vocabulary of the industry. He/she is also aware of new trends in the plastics industry, such as additive processes.

The professional receives and identifies the plastics and additives delivered in different forms, checks them for usability and stores them or prepares them for production according to the order. Often these raw and auxiliary materials still have to be prepared and further processed. For this purpose, the professional uses technical documents and calculates, e.g. on the basis of recipes, the mixtures of plastics and additives, which are mixed and homogenised as well as further processed. In order to also be able to distinguish between different plastics, he/she mainly determines thermoplastics using simple methods.

**Plastics processing**

The professional prepares hand tools and machines, etc. in accordance with the orders and work to be carried out and checks their safety by visual and functional inspections before use and takes appropriate measures if necessary. The professional uses hand tools or machines to machine semi-finished plastic products or plastic components with and without removing material, and to shape them while hot and join them (chemically and thermally). He/she detects and corrects any processing errors.

The professional cleans, rebuilds or equips plastics machines to prepare them for plastics processing. Depending on the type of plastics products manufactured in the company and the associated production processes (such as extrusion, injection moulding, thermoforming, laminating), he/she operates and monitors the plastics machines after production has started to ensure safe and trouble-free operation and records, interprets and documents operating data in the process. The professional prepares moulds or tools and carries out simple maintenance work after the end of production. He/she eliminates faults on plastics machines professionally and safely. He/she can read out and interpret operating data such as temperature, pressure, speed, power consumption and vibrations from automated systems and uses them to control and monitor the production process and ensure product quality. Operating data (order data, machine data, process data) are backed up via the IT networks or cloud solutions.

In addition, he/she also operates the company-specific peripheral equipment or downstream equipment for further processing of the company's plastic products, such as finishing the plastic surfaces, in order to achieve the desired effects or properties. The professional recognises any defects in plastic products and rectifies the causes in production.

Another activity of the professional is the development of new plastic products according to specifications. For this purpose, he/she develops various plastic products and creates the necessary drawings, performs calculations and selects suitable materials.

**Production and process management**

The professional recognises how production management influences the implementation of computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM) and logistics processes from goods procurement, goods storage and internal logistics to goods delivery and, in the process, participates in personnel planning as part of production management. Operating and machine data logging systems as well as manufacturing execution systems (MES) are used to collect operating and machine data in order to use them for evaluating production efficiency and quality. The professional also uses methods for improvement to show possibilities for optimisation. In order to ensure quality in production, he/she participates in determining process capability and in carrying out machine and process capability tests to assess the quality of stable production processes.

Within the framework of the company's quality management system, the professional uses different testing equipment to test intermediate products and end products on the basis of specified test characteristics and to document the results. He/she interprets test results, checks them for plausibility and recognises any sources of error. In addition,

however, he/she also carries out relevant mechanical, thermal and rheological material tests using the appropriate test equipment and test methods. If the professional detects deviations from the specifications, he/she initiates corrective measures after consultation. The professional carries out initial sample inspections as part of initial sampling processes.

**Interdisciplinary areas of competence:**

- Working in an operational and professional environment
- Quality oriented, safe and sustainable work
- Digital work

**4. RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS ACCESSIBLE TO THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE <sup>(3)</sup>**

**Range of occupations:**

Employment including in companies in the plastics processing industry, in small and medium-sized companies in the plastics processing trade as well as in companies in the mechanical engineering, plant construction and vehicle construction sectors

<sup>(3)</sup> if applicable

**(\*) Explanatory note**

This document has been developed with a view to providing additional information on individual certificates; it has no legal effect in its own right. These explanatory notes refer to the Decision (EU) no. 2018/646 of the European parliament and the Council of 2 May 2018 on a common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass).

More information on Europass is available at: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu> or [www.europass.at](http://www.europass.at)

**5. OFFICIAL BASIS OF THE CERTIFICATE**

<p><b>Name and status of the body awarding the certificate</b></p> <p>Lehrlingsstelle der Wirtschaftskammer</p> <p>(Apprenticeship Office of the Economic Chamber; for the address, see certificate)</p>	<p><b>Name and status of the national/regional authority providing accreditation/recognition of the certificate</b></p> <p>Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Wirtschaft (Federal Ministry for Labour and Economy)</p>
<p><b>Level of the certificate (national or international)</b></p> <p>NQF/EQF 4 ISCED 35</p>	<p><b>Grading scale / Pass requirements</b></p> <p>Overall performance: Pass with Distinction Good Pass Pass Fail</p>
<p><b>Access to next level of education/training</b></p> <p>Access to the <i>Berufsreifeprüfung</i> (i.e. certificate providing university access for skilled workers) or a vocational college for people under employment.</p> <p>Access to relevant courses at a <i>Fachhochschule</i> (i.e. university level study programme of at least three years' duration with vocational-technical orientation); additional examinations must be taken if the educational objective of the respective course requires it.</p>	<p><b>International agreements</b></p> <p>Between Germany, Hungary, South Tyrol and Austria, international agreements on the mutual automatic recognition of apprenticeship-leave examinations and other vocational qualifications have been concluded. Information on equivalent apprenticeship occupations can be obtained from the Federal Ministry for Labour and Economy.</p>
<p><b>Legal basis</b></p> <p>1. Training Regulation for Plastics Technology BGBl. II (Federal Law Gazette) No. 117/2023 (company-based training)</p> <p>2. Curriculum framework (education at the vocational school for apprentices)</p> <p>3. The present apprenticeship trade replaces the apprenticeship trade Plastics Technology (Training and Examination Regulation BGBl. II (Federal Law Gazette) No. 23/2004 as amended by BGBl. II (Federal Law Gazette) No. 227/2008), which expired as of 30 of April 2023.</p>	

**6. OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED WAYS OF ACQUIRING THE CERTIFICATE**

1. Training in the framework of the given Training Regulation for Plastics Technology and of the curriculum of the vocational school for apprentices. Admission to the final apprenticeship examination upon completion of the apprenticeship period specified for the apprenticeship trade concerned. The final apprenticeship examination aims to establish whether the apprentice has acquired the skills and competences required for the respective apprenticeship trade and is able to carry out the activities particular to the learned trade herself/himself in an

appropriate manner.

2. Admission to the final apprenticeship examination in accordance with Article 23 (5) of the *Berufsausbildungsgesetz* (Vocational Training Act). An applicant for an examination is entitled to sit the final apprenticeship examination without completing a formal apprenticeship training if she/he has reached 18 years of age and is able to prove acquisition of the required skills and competences by means of a relevant practical or an on-the-job training activity of appropriate length, by attending relevant courses etc.

**Additional information:**

**Entry requirements:** successful completion of 9 years of compulsory schooling

**Duration of training:** 4 years

**Enterprise-based training:** Enterprise-based training comprises  $\frac{4}{5}$  of the entire duration of the training and focuses on the provision of job-specific skills and competences according to Article 3 of the Training Regulation, BGBl. II (Federal Law Gazette) No. 117/2023, enabling the apprentice to exercise qualified activities as defined by the profile of skills and competences specified above (cf. job profile).

**Education at vocational school:** School-based education comprises  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the entire duration of the training. The vocational school for apprentices has the tasks of imparting to apprentices the basic theoretical knowledge, of supplementing their enterprise-based training and of widening their general education in the framework of subject-oriented part-time instruction.

**More information** (including a description of the national qualification system) is available at:  
[www.zeugnisinfo.at](http://www.zeugnisinfo.at) and [www.edusystem.at](http://www.edusystem.at)

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