

On review of this year's R09 data, the ESFA has identified issues with providers not recording the correct end-point assessment organisation (EPAO) information in the ILR or they have not input any EPAO data at all. Some end-point assessment dates are now due, and apprentices will suffer detriment if they are not delivered on time by the correct organisations, or if the EPAO does not have enough assessors available to deal with the volume of assessments due at the same time, due to poor data being entered by the provider.

It is vitally important that the data is correctly entered so that apprentices are able to complete their apprenticeship and be receive their certificates and to do this they need to have a correctly appointed and approved EPAO to assess them for a standard. Also, if the correct EPAO has not been made aware by the provider that they have been chosen by an employer to undertake end-point assessment there is the possible scenario of multiple assessments being due at the same time and assessors not being available to undertake them.

Too many providers are:

- Inputting the wrong EPAO codes in the ILR return (for example, the EPAO is not approved for the standard)
- Entering EPAO numbers that do not exist on the register
- Entering a correct code, but when we check with the EPAO they are not aware they have been selected

Because of this, information is not being passed on to the relevant/correct EPAO who, in turn, do not have the right information on the amount of upcoming assessments they are due to deliver. In one case the EPAO has been notified of 200 learners and contracts signed, but the ILR return is showing over 1,000 learners.

The ESFA are therefore asking all Training Providers to review their EPAO data for both current and future returns, correct any discrepancies and update any Unknown/ N/A completions. Please, can errors be rectified by R14.

In summary, its important providers correctly record:

- the EPAO number,
- for an organisation on the [Register of End-point Assessment Organisations](#),
- Who must be approved for the apprenticeship standard being assessed
- And to ensure that the EPAO has been contacted

Taking these actions is a requirement under the Funding Rules and will ensure that the ILR fields are correct and that contracts are accurately drawn up between the provider and EPAO.

If you have any queries about this please contact the [ESFA service desk](#).

Courtesy of the AELP