L3: Creative venue technician and live event technician

Title of occupation
Creative venue technician and live event technician

UOS reference number
ST1297

Core and options
Yes

Option title/s
Creative Venue Technician
Live Event Technician

Level of occupation
Level 3

Route
Creative and design

Typical duration of apprenticeship
24 months

Does professional recognition exist for the occupation?
No

Occupation summary
This occupation is found in a range of settings from entertainment venues and theatres, through to organisations that provide technical solutions for the setup of live and streamed events. Technicians can be venue based (Creative Venue Technician (CVT)). Alternatively, they can be mobile and work in a variety of sites and environments (Live Event Technician (LET)). CVTs play an active role in the technical setup and operation of a variety of established creative venues. For example, theatres, arts centres, and broadcast studios. LETs provide technical solutions for live performance and event projects of all sizes across the UK, Europe, and worldwide. The events range from concerts, festivals and theatrical performances through to exhibitions, conferences, product launches, and showcases.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to prepare, build, set up, and operate
functioning systems for live performance and events. These systems are likely to include sound, lighting, and video. Technicians can read, interpret and give appropriate technical information to colleagues and clients. They use a variety of tools to assemble, install and maintain technical and production systems. They may be required to work flexible working hours and work weekends and evenings. They may be required to work at height. A CVT provides technical support for the construction, rehearsal, presentation and removal of a live performance. They are multi-skilled across a wide range of technical disciplines. They possess a broad level of knowledge relevant to the venue in which they operate. CVTs will be competent in lighting, audio, video, stage systems and building services related to live performance. They apply these competencies to their resident premises and / or production. They are skilled in stagecraft techniques such as operating stage machinery, performing scene changes and carpentry. This allows them to set up, rig, operate, maintain and carry out basic repairs of technical equipment used in creative venues. LETs set-up technical equipment for live events and usually specialise in sound, lighting or video. They have knowledge of the equipment used in different environments and will have the ability to calibrate systems. They specify components to deliver high quality outputs across a range of different settings. LETs are responsible for the control, servicing, repair and storage of complex technical equipment. Their specialist knowledge enables them to troubleshoot and repair components and systems at sub assembly level.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a wide range of stakeholders. Technicians work with a wide range of partners and collaborators. These may include but not be limited to: venue staff, freelancers, and touring staff, who will be technicians of all disciplines, production managers, performers, and community groups, stage management, costume staff, designers and producers.

They will also interact with clients and presenters, front of house managers, audiences, members of the general public.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for the quality and accuracy of the work that they undertake. They carry out tasks both autonomously and as part of a team. Although technicians are required to work independently and may be required to support junior colleagues, they usually operate under the direction and supervision of a supervisor or manager. They will be proactive in finding solutions to problems and identifying areas for improving processes. In any context working safely and efficiently is paramount. Many projects are carried out in fast-moving, dynamic workplaces. This is a core and options standard. All apprentices will be required to complete the core criteria. The apprentice will follow either the live event technician or creative venue technician option and will be required to meet the criteria corresponding to that option.

**Typical job titles**

Venue Technician Theatre Technician Stage Technician Lighting Technician Sound Technician Video Technician Automation Technician Live Event Technician Creative Venue Technician Flys Technician Site Technician Production Technician Site Engineers Video Engineer Sound Engineer
**Entry requirements**

There are no set entry requirements. Employers may typically require an individual to be physically capable and comfortable working at heights.

**Core occupation duties**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUTY</th>
<th>KSBS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 1</strong> Core. Interpret system specifications for live performance and events. These systems are likely to include sound, lighting and video.</td>
<td>K12 K15 K17 S1 S2 S3 S17 B9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 2</strong> Core. Assemble and configure systems to meet the specification requirements. E.g sound, lighting, and video.</td>
<td>K7 K8 K10 K11 K16 K17 S4 S8 S14 B1 B2 B5 B7 B8 B10 K13 K14 K16 K18 K19 S5 S7 S13 B6 B7 B8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 3</strong> Core. Test, troubleshoot and maintain equipment and systems.</td>
<td>K2 K3 K4 K20 S9 S10 S11 S17 B3 B4 B8 K5 K6 K8 K9 K16 S12 S13 S16 B4 B7 B8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 4</strong> Core. Collaborate with stakeholders and supervise team members.</td>
<td>K8 K10 K16 S15 B7 B8 B10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 5</strong> Core. Operate and maintain technical equipment.</td>
<td>K1 K9 K16 S12 S13 B4 B7 B8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 6</strong> Core. Dynamically risk assess the work environment and situation. Adapt working practices to ensure the safety of self and others.</td>
<td>K8 K10 K16 S15 B7 B8 B10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 7</strong> Core. Disassemble and store technical equipment safely and efficiently at the end of the event, ensuring that the integrity of the components is maintained.</td>
<td>K8 K10 K16 S15 B7 B8 B10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Option duties

### Creative Venue Technician duties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DUTY</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 12</strong> CVT. Monitor and operate building services. E.g. heating, ventilation, plant, and machinery.</td>
<td>K28 S26 S32 B2 B7 B9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 13</strong> CVT. Construct scenery and staging systems to meet performance requirements.</td>
<td>K12 K29 K30 S3 S27 S29 S30 B6 B7 B9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 14</strong> CVT. Carry out live scene changes and operate stage and suspension systems.</td>
<td>K27 K30 S6 S11 S18 S28 S29 B1 B2 B3 B7 B8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 15</strong> CVT. Inspect creative venue building systems and carry out maintenance, basic repairs, and upkeep.</td>
<td>K13 K16 K31 K32 S1 S31 S32 B1 B7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Live Event Technician duties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 8</strong> LET. Repair complex systems and sub-assemblies at component level.</td>
<td>K9 K21 K22 K24 S19 S20 S22 B1 B6 B7 B9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 9</strong> LET. Utilise lifting and rigging equipment to set up event systems.</td>
<td>K1 K5 K7 S25 B5 B7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 10</strong> LET. Specify equipment and system requirements suitable for the operational environment.</td>
<td>K23 K25 S1 S3 S21 S23 B1 B9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duty 11</strong> LET. Prepare and pack systems for local and/or international transportation prior to the event.</td>
<td>K7 K11 K16 K26 S24 S25 B7 B8 B10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KSBs

Knowledge

K1: Core. Health and safety standards including: manual handling, work at height provision and use of work equipment, construction (design and management), noise, first aid, working time regulations, electricity at work, fire and emergency procedures, accident reporting, HSE guidance on running events safely, personal protective equipment, legal requirements for the maintenance of electro technical systems.

K2: Core. Typical management structures within the performance and events work environment, etiquette and culture, including communication and interdependencies between departments.

K3: Core. The sectors within the live performance and events industry.

K4: Core. Relevant industry bodies and their roles e.g. Production Services Association (PSA), Association of British Theatre Technicians (ABTT), Live Events Network Charter, BECTU, Professional Lighting and Sound Association (PLASA).

K5: Core. Lifting operations; theory and practice.

K6: Core. Security and control of equipment protocols.

K7: Core. Planning processes required to deliver a live performance and event and the importance of eliminating errors.

K8: Core. Principles used to select the correct tools and equipment for tasks.

K9: Core. Electricity and Temporary Electrical Supplies; theory, practice and safety.

K10: Core. Working knowledge of stock control, storage, logistics and transportation.

K11: Core. Approaches used to control environmental impact and contribute to sustainable management.

K12: Core. The use of computer-aided design to view, extract information and realise specifications from system designs.


K14: Core. Methods used to identify potential improvements to systems and procedures.

K15: Core. The properties of mechanical and electro-mechanical systems.

K16: Core. The importance of keeping work and storage areas clean, tidy and free from the build-up of waste materials.

K17: Core. Principles and terminology relating to the set-up of lighting, sound or video systems for live performance and events.

K18: Core. Methods used to prepare, test and maintain lighting, sound or video equipment and systems.

K19: Core. Methods used to troubleshoot and carry out basic repairs to lighting, sound or video equipment and systems.

K20: Core. Different verbal and digital communication methods and how these may be adapted to suit for different stakeholders.

K21: LET. The application of troubleshooting techniques to fault find and repair complex issues at sub assembly and component level.

K22: LET. Procedures to calibrate equipment and systems and the impact this has on the final production.

K23: LET. Venue specific considerations and application of products in different environments e.g. the scale of the venue, indoor, outdoor.
K24: LET. How to identify and undertake service requirements after use (as per manufacturer recommendations).
K25: LET. Network interface and compatibility requirements across live event systems.
K26: LET. Techniques used to Identify required packing space for equipment and for truck packs. How to prepare carnets and manifests for shows travelling across customs boarders.
K27: CVT. Principles of stage and production management.
K28: CVT. The purpose, operational effect and statutory requirements for creative venue systems and production systems.
K29: CVT. The history, styles, architecture, terminology and acoustics of a range of creative venues and the impact on production design and practice.
K30: CVT. Appreciation of other departmental requirements and production design elements – scenic, lighting, audio and visual.
K31: CVT. The application of troubleshooting techniques to fault find and carry out basic repairs to Creative venue systems.
K32: CVT. Methods used to inspect, test and maintain Creative venue systems.

**Skills**

S1: Core. Interpret system specifications and drawings. E.g. sound, lighting, and video.
S2: Core. Prepare system specifications and drawings.
S3: Core. Use specialist software systems such as computer aided design and asset management to extract information and input basic information.
S4: Core. Assemble systems to support live performance or events from component parts using correct tools.
S5: Core. Troubleshoot and fault find issues in discrete pieces of equipment.
S6: Core. Operate specialised technical equipment and tools.
S7: Core. Prepare, test, repair and maintain lighting, sound or video equipment and systems.
S8: Core. Program and operate production control consoles.
S9: Core. Collaborate with stakeholders and adapt communication appropriately to suit the audience.
S10: Core. Use digital collaboration tools to collaborate with colleagues and stakeholders.
S11: Core. Direct team members taking into consideration their level of experience.
S12: Core. Interpret and apply method statements in response to dynamic risk assessment to help ensure safe planning and delivery of work processes.
S13: Core. Use safety and access equipment in accordance with manufacturer instructions or to an alternative safe scheme of use.
S14: Core. Assemble and configure structures and systems from component parts to production specification.
S15: Core. Disassemble structures and systems, store component parts and equipment effectively and safely.
S16: Core. Deploy, operate and maintain technical equipment under direction.
S17: Core. Prepare written information and reports.
S18: Core. Undertake cueing and operation during the live performance or event.
S19: LET. Trouble shoot, fault find and repair at sub assembly and component level.
S20: LET. Calibrate equipment and systems to meet production requirements.
S21: LET. Identify, specify and use components, systems and products applicable for the environment.
S22: LET. Identify and undertake servicing requirements in line with manufacturer recommendations.
S23: LET. Achieve effective network connectivity across live event systems.
S24: LET. Identify required packing space for equipment and for truck packs.
S25: LET. Prepare and operate lifting and ground rigging equipment correctly.
S26: CVT. Monitor and operate building services effectively e.g. heating, ventilation, plant and machinery.
S27: CVT. Comply with creative venue budgetary and financial management protocols.
S28: CVT. Undertake set and change scenes in live performance – setting and striking scenic elements under ‘show conditions’.
S29: CVT. Operate suspension systems correctly.
S30: CVT. Undertake stage crafts such as basic scenic construction, carpentry, metalwork, stage machinery, props, scene changes, knots and terminations.
S31: CVT. Trouble shoot, fault find and carry out basic repairs to creative venue and production systems.
S32: CVT. As directed, inspect, test and maintain Creative venue systems and production systems.

Behaviours

B1: Core. Adopts a flexible approach and is adaptable to change.
B2: Core. Willing to work unsociable hours in a variety of circumstances/locations for extended periods.
B3: Core. Punctual, reliable and personally responsible.
B4: Core. Team-focused, respectful of others and works and communicates effectively with stakeholders.
B5: Core. Self-motivated with a positive and disciplined approach to work. Takes ownership of work and personal responsibility for timely delivery.
B6: Core. Committed to achieving clear goals and ambitions and to continuously improve and develop.
B7: Core. Puts safety first for themselves and others.
B8: Core. Remains calm and safe when exposed to time pressures or deadlines.
B9: Core. Proactively identifies solutions and keeps up to date with industry best practice.
B10: Core. Takes personal responsibility for sustainable outcomes in how they carry out the duties of their role by reference to environmental good practice.

Qualifications

English & Maths

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the End-Point Assessment. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprenticeship’s English and maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. A British Sign Language (BSL) qualification is an alternative to the English qualification for those whose primary language is BSL.
A respondent suggested that continuous development is required after 2 years in order to keep up to date. This is already reflected in the behavioural requirement to be committed to achieving clear goals and ambitions and to continuously improve and develop.

It was suggested that the requirements for PPE and Legal requirements for the maintenance of electro technical systems be called out and these are now encompassed in K1.

Whilst there were other suggestions of potential additional content the trailblazer considered the responses and either felt that the suggestions would limit transferability or that the detail was already covered sufficiently (for example, the use of lifting equipment, networking).

Progression Routes

Audiovisual technician, Fly and Automation, Logistics