RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING POLICY

1.0 SCOPE

1.1 This policy applies to all Awarding Organisation qualifications e.g. VRQ's, NVQ's and SVQ's, Frameworks and Standards

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 MRG aims to assist learners in identifying their formal recognition of the knowledge, understanding and skills.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

3.1 The Regulatory Arrangements for the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) provides the following definition of RPL and this definition is fully supported by the CQFW:

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is 'a method of assessment that considers whether a learner can demonstrate that they can meet the assessment requirements for a unit through knowledge, understanding or skills that they already possess and do not need to develop through a course of learning'.

3.2 A similar definition is provided by the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework:

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the process for recognising learning that has it source in experience and/or previous formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts. This includes knowledge and skills gained within a school, college and university and outside formal learning situations such as through life and work experiences.

3.3 In the context of the QCF, the definition of RPL is quite specific and relates to assessment leading to the award of credit. Assessment for RPL is conducted against the learning outcomes and assessment criteria of a unit and is subject to the same internal and external quality assurance requirements as any other kind of assessment within the QCF.

3.4 The RPL must be identified at initial assessment and must be claimed by the learner as part of a qualification. MRG are responsible for assessment and claiming credit. There is no difference between achievement of the required standards by RPL and achievement through a formal programme of learning.

3.5 The following are examples of malpractice by learners; this list is not exhaustive and other instances of malpractice may be considered by MRG or the Awarding Organisations at their discretion:

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4.0 **RPL PROCESS**

4.1 The RPL process will enable the learner/s to record their knowledge, understanding and skills acquired from their work experiences and training. Learner/s can do this using a CPD log. Where appropriate this can be used to claim credit for their achievements. This process can give them either a part or full qualification irrespective of how their skills and knowledge were learnt.

4.2 RPL will be evidenced from where the learner has evidence of their learning which also shows they have completed an assessment with an Awarding Organisation which can be 100% mapped to the current assessment criteria being worked on. This piece of assessment would have been assessed and internally quality assured by the previous centre.

4.3 Learners who are unlikely to have all the evidence they need to achieve a full unit will need to produce additional evidence. Evidence used for RPL is not time-limited, but assessors must determine whether it is VACRS. RPL may be used in conjunction with other assessment methods such as examination of recent products, professional discussion or observation to assess current performance.