



Artificial Intelligence

Scope

This policy provides guidance for identifying and preventing the misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by apprentices enrolled on any Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) Level 2 or Level 3 programmes delivered by Lavender International.

This policy applies to all staff involved in the delivery, assessment, support, and internal quality assurance of NDT training and apprenticeship standards.

Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Provide clear guidance on how AI can be appropriately and responsibly used.
- Define what constitutes AI misuse within NDT training and assessment.
- Support staff in identifying and preventing AI misuse by apprentices.
- Outline mandatory actions where AI misuse is suspected or confirmed.

What is the definition of generative artificial intelligence (AI)

AI is the ability of machines and software to think like humans. It has the potential to make decisions and judgments. Within qualifications and assessments, it can write answers, respond to questions and complete assessments based on what an individual has input.

The Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI tools generate content based on user prompts and uploaded information. Common free-to-use AI tools include:

- ChatGPT
- Google Bard / Gemini
- Claude

AI can be a helpful support tool for learning, research and internal administration. Apprentices are not prohibited from using AI, however, its use must not compromise assessment integrity, qualification validity, or industry standards expected in NDT practice.

AI is rapidly evolving, with new tools becoming available frequently. While it can often be clear when AI has been used to generate content (e.g. when a prompt has been entered into ChatGPT), some other tools may utilise AI in ways that you may not realise (e.g. Grammarly utilising AI to suggest alternate phrasings of work).

Appropriate/permitted use of AI

AI may be used by apprentices only for learning support, not for completing assessments or producing evidence for their portfolio.



Apprenticeships

Permitted uses include:

- Research and information gathering, such as collating background knowledge on NDT methods, standards, or industry regulations.
- Summarising large documents (e.g., codes, standards, specifications) to aid understanding.
- Idea generation, such as identifying topics or areas to explore before completing an assignment.
- Comparing texts or data to help identify similarities, differences, or key themes that the apprentice will then explain in their own words.

When used for research, all AI-generated information must be treated as an external source and referenced where applicable. Apprentices must still produce work that is their own, demonstrating authentic understanding aligned with NDT occupational competence.

Assessment Integrity

All apprentices are expected to act with integrity, a commitment to ethical, honest, and fair practice, in their studies. This means that the work that you submit for any activities/assessments must be your own. Any part of work that is created by others, including AI-generated content, must be fully acknowledged and referenced.

Transparency

Apprentices are expected to be transparent about their use of AI tools in their written assessment work. This includes:

- Acknowledging the use of AI tools in their written responses, including identification of specific tools used and the extent of their use.
- Referencing specific text generated using AI if included in written responses.
- Being open to questions about the use of AI tools in their written assessment work.

AI Misuse

AI misuse occurs when an apprentice uses AI in a way that compromises the authenticity, integrity or validity of their assessed work.

Examples of AI misuse include:

- Submitting AI-generated written work (full or partial) as their own
- Assessment questions or written tasks
- Learning outcomes or assessment criteria
- Project synopses
- EPA Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs)
- Failing to reference AI-generated content used for research or background reading
- Entering assessment materials, exam questions or restricted content into AI systems

Any work primarily written by AI or significantly edited by AI to the point that it is no longer solely the apprentice's own is considered plagiarism and is not authentic.



Apprenticeships

Preventing Misuse

Tutors can reduce AI-related risks by:

- Being familiar with AI tools and understanding their capabilities and limitations.
- Clearly explaining to apprentices the difference between learning support and assessment completion.
- Designing assessments that require application of NDT knowledge to specific scenarios, encouraging authentic, technical responses.
- Using questioning, professional discussion, and observation to validate apprentice understanding.
- Monitoring for language, structure, or technical content that is inconsistent with the apprentice's known ability or NDT experience.
- Using plagiarism-detection tools and professional judgement where AI misuse is suspected.

Action where AI misuse is suspected

If AI misuse is suspected:

- The tutor must document the concern and gather any supporting evidence.
- The apprentice will be invited to clarify or verbally demonstrate their understanding.
- The matter will be reviewed in line with the Misconduct or Malpractice procedures.

Where misuse is confirmed, appropriate actions may include:

- Re-submitting the assessment
- Voiding the assessment
- Disciplinary action
- Reporting to the employer

Identifying Potential AI Misuse

Although AI misuse poses a risk to the authenticity and integrity of the assessment, AI-generated content displays certain characteristics which we should be aware of to enable us to identify where AI tools may have been used/misused.

Examples of characteristics of AI-generated content include:

- Use of American spelling and currency
- The long dash symbol that often steps in for commas in the middle of a sentence
- Presence of language and vocabulary above the level being assessed
- Repeated use of the same adverbs and adjectives
- A lack of quotations or use of external sources and references
- Linear 'template' structure with a clear distinction between an introduction, content and summary

Tutors should also be aware of their own apprentices' writing styles, structure, language and vocabulary. An assessment that is distinctly different stylistically from their work is a potential indicator of plagiarism or AI misuse.



Apprenticeships

Review arrangements

At Lavender International, we will review the policy annually as part of our self-evaluation arrangements to ensure it remains fit for purpose and continues to reflect the requirements of the Assessment.

However, a review will be commissioned earlier should any issues arise in relation to any findings through review processes or changes to legislation.

Any review of policies is signed off by the Quality Manager.

Date 15/12/2025

Signed J Goodfellow