

## ICDL GCC Foundation enforces new measures to conform to ICDL's international standards

The Foundation urges courseware providers and training centres not to deviate from the ICDL Syllabus

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ICDL GCC Foundation, the governing body of International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) programme in the Gulf States, has launched a quality assurance drive to ensure that ICDL candidates are receiving maximum benefit of ICDL approved training courseware for the recently launched ICDL Syllabus 4.

ICDL GCC Foundation has issued separate notices to training material providers and ICDL accredited training centres listing the measures that need to be implemented to ensure quality, prevention of piracy and avoiding deviation from the ICDL Syllabus.

The European Computer Driving License (ECDL) Foundation does not deliver training or develops courseware material. Instead, the Foundation requires that vendors seeking approval for their courseware material have to adhere to certain standards and their material must map out to the ICDL syllabus. The Foundation also requires all its accredited training centres worldwide to use only approved content in their training of ICDL candidates.

While the ECDL Foundation formally reviews and grants its approval for courseware material produced by certain courseware providers, it is the role of its regional office in Dubai to review and approve content for use in Gulf States. ICDL GCC Foundation holds the responsibility of reviewing content against the ICDL syllabus and ensures that the content is adhering to the region's localisation requirements. Further, it is the responsibility of all content providers to obtain approval from ICDL GCC Foundation for their content, English as well as Arabic, before they can market or sell it in the Gulf region.

“The ICDL program has witnessed exponential growth since its launch, making it mandatory to enforce more stringent requirements in order to ensure that best quality training is delivered to trainees. The campaign that we have envisioned is to ensure the use of ICDL approved courseware by accredited ICDL training centres for delivery of the ICDL training programme, related to ICDL Syllabus 4, to ensure that the end-user gains the fullest benefit. The courseware is designed not only to ensure that the candidate passes the exam, but also to provide him with higher skills that will help him improve his performance at workplace and in personal use,” said Jamil Ezzo, Director General of ICDL-GCC Foundation.

As ICDL programme is aimed at developing basic IT proficiency, great care has been taken to ensure that the offered training courses and the courseware used are of the highest standards. The ICDL GCC Foundation has approved the content of several vendors, but selected 6 to become preferred vendors. This includes Arab Scientific Publishers (Sybex), Aston Swann, CiA Training, Element K, ReDSOFT, Thomson

NETg and Thomson Course Technology, where the respective courseware of each vendor is purchased directly through the Foundation. The ICDL GCC Foundation website ([www.icdlgcc.com](http://www.icdlgcc.com)) contains full details and samples of the content. The different listed options include books, online, Intranet, and Computer Based Training (CBT).

The ICDL GCC Foundation has urged all approved content providers selling ICDL's Arabic or English content in the GCC market, to submit it for the Foundation's review and approval, as per the 'Approved Courseware Agreement'. This is to ensure that the ICDL certification programme remains compliant with the ECDL/ICDL international standards. Additionally, it has been made mandatory for all accredited training centres in the Gulf region to use ICDL approved courseware in Arabic and English bearing the ICDL GCC Foundation logo for training and testing of the learners, the failure of which will be deemed as a violation of the accreditation agreement.

Ezzo said that strict observance of ICDL rules would bring benefits to all parties concerned. It will minimise piracy, prevents deviation, and ensures the standard of quality.

“As ICDL becomes the preferred IT proficiency in the GCC region with all ministries of education and other organisations endorsing it, ICDL GCC Foundation is determined to ensure the quality of ICDL programmes delivered to end-users,” said Ezzo. “The future of the candidates depends on the knowledge provided to them, and if the set norms are not followed strictly, there is the danger of the candidate losing out on the set benefits”

#### **About ICDL**

International Computer Driving License (ICDL), is an internationally recognized computer proficiency standard that is owned by the European Computer Driving License (ECDL) and introduced by the UNESCO's Cairo Office (UCO) for Arab states in 2001. ICDL is gaining increasing acceptance in the Middle East, with several governments adopting as a requirement to their employees. The ICDL program exists in over 132 countries, and is offered in 32 languages, including Arabic. The programs offered are all based on one standard syllabus and question set. There are more than 15,000 centres worldwide, and over 10 million exams have been taken globally since the launch of the program.

#### **About ICDL GCC Foundation**

ICDL GCC Foundation was created by the ECDL Foundation, the not-for-profit global governing body of the ECDL and ICDL member countries dedicated to helping raise the general level of computer skills in societies and providing access for all to the information society, to serve the to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States with their implementation of ICDL and for providing them with localised support to ensure quality of ICDL programs. The ICDL-GCC Foundation is the sole ICDL licensee and accreditation body that is responsible to support ICDL accredited training and testing centres in the GCC. It also acts as the reviewing and approving body for the local adaptation of ICDL programs, including authorizing the sale of Arabic ICDL content and testing material in the region.

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