e-Marker® computer readiness

Guidance - Summer 22

Give yourself a little time to prepare the computer (PC or laptop) you are intending to use for this e-Marker® summer series. Computers have a nasty habit of saying 'No' at the most inconvenient times. So, now is the time to get your computer ready, and your marking location ready before downloading, installing, and running e-Marker® software.

1. Private vs. loan (education establishment)

Home private computer users: For the majority, you will be using home Windows computers versions 8.1, 10 and 11, where you, the user, require local or full administrative rights or to be the computer administrator.

Using a loaned computer.

User rights: These computers tend to be loaned out with limited user rights. This unfortunately may prevent full software installation and cause communication issues with internet security (like internet banking).

Required action: Please have a chat with your education establishment's IT technician or their IT provider and ask for assistance. You will need them to change your computer user rights to having local/full administrative rights. Note that educational establishments are not obliged to do this for you, it's just good will on their part.

Updates: Windows updates v10 & v11 - optimising security and communication for your computer.

Required action: For **both** private and loaned computer users, check your computer is up to date with Windows updates - it enhances computer security, installation, and program communication. Please have ago with these instructions:

- with your computer connected to the internet, press, and hold down together the 'Windows Key' and letter 'R' (once) on your keyboard
- this will bring up a '**Run**' dialogue box. Type in, '**control update**' then click 'OK'
- the 'Windows Update' screen will open. Locate and click on 'Check for updates'
- when finished, re-click 'Check for updates' again for any more updates until the message 'no more updates available' appears
- when finished, close the page, click on **'X'** top right-hand corner.

2. Marking flexibility:

Home vs. Education establishment

Home: Marking at home (the preferred marking location)

Wi-Fi via your suitably located router hub, ideally where the Wi-Fi signal is strong and consistent.

Here are a few things you can try to improve your Wi-Fi signal:

1. move closer to the router. The signal can be blocked by walls and other electrical devices
2. restart your router. Switch the router off, wait for 3 mins then switch it back on, re-check signal strength
3. invest in Wi-Fi extender/booster or a mesh network booster. These work by amplifying the Wi-Fi signal - plug into a mains socket on your premises
4. upgrade your router. Your ISP (Internet Service Provider) may be able to supply you with an upgrade (check with them first).

Alternatively, an ethernet cable is the best communication connection between your computer and router; however, cable length can limit where you wish to mark in your property.

Note: Ethernet cable type: RJ45 (double ended) - it is likely a short lead came with your router. Alternatively, purchase a longer lead, try Amazon or PC World.

Education establishments: Marking at school or college: either with your private laptop or loaned laptop. If you are intending on marking at school/college, you may need to have a chat with the IT technician/department/provider and ask for assistance to enable e-Marker® software to communicate through the school or college firewall.

Please make a note or take a photo of the following details below and pass it to your school or college IT ‘go to’ person:

- **Whitelisting:** *.**e-marker.co.uk** **&** ***.e-marker.co.uk**
- **Port 80 Internet port**
- **Port 443** (security port) to allow e-Marker® software access.

For more information on computer requirements, please click here (AQA ExtraNet).