



## **National Unit Specification: general information**

**UNIT** Plastering: Applying Coatings to Metal Lath (SCQF level 6)

**CODE** F6SB 12

### **SUMMARY**

This Unit is suitable for candidates working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in Plastering and will develop the candidate's understanding of fixing and coating plastering materials to metal lath. This Unit is designed to provide candidates with competence in preparing backgrounds, cutting and fixing metal lath, applying plasters to metal lath, cutting and fixing metal trims and the ability to apply these in the workplace. It is also designed to enable candidates to develop their understanding of plastering terminology, techniques and practices.

### **OUTCOMES**

- 1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of terminology, techniques and practices used in applying coatings to metal lath.
- 2 Fix metal lath to horizontal and vertical surfaces.
- 3 Measure, cut and apply metal trims.
- 4 Apply straightening coat to metal lath surface.
- 5 Apply finishing plaster.

### **RECOMMENDED ENTRY**

While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, candidates undertaking the Professional Development Award in Plastering at SCQF level 6 must meet the requirements of the Modern Apprentices which include being employed in the relevant craft industry.

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#### **Administrative Information**

**Superclass:** TG

**Publication date:** June 2009

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

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## **National Unit Specification: general information (cont)**

**UNIT**            Plastering: Applying Coatings to Metal Lath (SCQF level 6)

### **CREDIT VALUE**

2 credits at SCQF level 6 (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6\*).

*\*SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

### **CORE SKILLS**

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit. Opportunities for developing aspects of the following Core Skills are highlighted in Support Notes of this Unit:

- ◆ *Working with Others* at SCQF level 4
- ◆ *ICT* at SCQF level 3
- ◆ *Numeracy* at SCQF level 4
- ◆ *Communication* at SCQF level 4
- ◆ *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT        Plastering: Applying Coatings to Metal Lath (SCQF level 6)**

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of terminology, techniques and practices used in applying coatings to metal lath.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify and select terminology related to applying coatings to metal lath correctly.
- (b) Identify and select techniques used in applying coatings to metal lath correctly.
- (c) Identify and select construction practices used in applying coatings to metal lath correctly.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Fix metal lath to horizontal and vertical surfaces.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Prepare background to receive metal lath.
- (b) Measure cut and shape metal lath.
- (c) Fix metal lath to timber background to including overlaps.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Measure, cut and apply metal trims.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Prepare backgrounds to receive metal trims.
- (b) Measure metal trims accurately according to given specifications.
- (c) Cut metal trims according to given specifications.
- (d) Apply metal trims according to given specifications.
- (e) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

### **UNIT        Plastering: Applying Coatings to Metal Lath (SCQF level 6)**

#### **OUTCOME 4**

Apply straightening coat to metal lath surface.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify and select the correct tools and materials for the given task.
- (b) Prepare background according to given specification.
- (c) Mix lightweight plaster according to given instructions.
- (d) Apply pricking up coat according to given specification.
- (e) Straighten wall area in lightweight plasters according to given specifications.
- (f) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

#### **OUTCOME 5**

Apply finishing plaster.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Prepare background according to given specifications.
- (b) Mix lightweight plaster according to given instructions.
- (c) Apply finishing plaster to horizontal and vertical backgrounds according to given specifications.
- (d) Comply with current health and safety requirements during all work methods and activities.

### **EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT**

These evidence requirements will be met by the completion of the Plastering Training and Assessment Programme (TAP).

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved this Unit to the standard specified in all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Written and/or oral recorded evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved Outcome 1 to the standard specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of preparing backgrounds, cutting and fixing metal lath, fixing metal trims, applying picking up coats, straightening horizontal and vertical wall areas, and apply finishing plaster. The instrument of assessment will be a questions paper conducted under closed book, controlled, supervised conditions.

Product and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved Outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 5 to the standards specified in the Performance Criteria. Candidates will be required to prepare backgrounds, cut and fix metal lath, fix metal trims, apply picking up coats, straighten horizontal and vertical wall areas, and apply finishing plaster. Candidates must demonstrate safe handling of tools and materials, an awareness of standards and tolerances and comply with workshop cleaning and maintenance, health and safety and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements.

## National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

### UNIT Plastering: Applying Coatings to Metal Lath (SCQF level 6)

Assessment of these Outcomes will be evidenced through observation of work processes and assessment of the completed work pieces. Candidates must meet the given standards and tolerances during the practical assessments. An assessor observation checklist must be used to record this evidence. Assessment should be conducted under controlled, supervised conditions.

#### Outcomes 1 and 2

Summary of standards (working towards industrial tolerances)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Background surface cleaned and prepared	Free from obstructions
Measuring and cutting	Accurately $\pm 8$ mm with no ragged edges
Fixing	Sheet taut and generally free from sagging with fixings at even centres (100 mm max) and no misses Wire ties fully secure at centres not exceeding 150 mm
Overlap	Minimum 25 mm side, 50 mm end, 75 mm return accurately cut $\pm 8$ mm
Face of mesh	Uniform in direction outwards and downwards

#### Outcome 4

Summary of standards (working towards industrial tolerances)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Expanded metal lath	
Background surface cleaned and prepared	Free from obstructions. Accurately $\pm 6$ mm with no ragged edges
Setting out/positioning of sheets	Uniform – at right angles to main supports
Fixing	Sheet taut and generally free from sagging with fixings at even centres (100 mm max) and no misses Wire ties fully secure at centres not exceeding 150 mm
Overlap	Minimum 25 mm side, 50 mm end, 75 mm return accurately cut $\pm 5$ mm
Face of mesh	Uniform in direction outwards and downwards

## National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)

**UNIT** Plastering: Applying Coatings to Metal Lath (SCQF level 6)

### Outcome 5

Summary of standards (working towards industrial tolerances)	
Item	Measurement of standard
Plumb	±7 mm
Flatness	±7 mm
First coat applied	Generally free from lath exposure and heavy trowel marks
Scratch (first coat)	Evenly with no misses
Second coat applied	±7 mm
Angled bead	level and straight throughout its length
Floated	Evenly devil floated and scratched
Finish coat	Smooth even thickness ±5 mm free from trowel marks and blemishes
Material consistency	Free from lumps and dry materials and workable/spreadable
Health and safety	Complies at all times
Risk Assessment	Safety boots worn at all times Hard hat worn at all times High visibility vest worn at all times All other PPE as risk assessed
Method Statement	Working area kept clean at all times Materials stacked correctly at all times Tools handled correctly at all times Tools cleaned and stored safely at end of working day

## National Unit Specification: support notes

### UNIT      Plastering: Applying Coatings to Metal Lath (SCQF level 6)

This part of the Unit Specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

#### **GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT**

This Unit has been developed as a mandatory Unit in the Professional Development Award in Plastering at SCQF level 6.

The successful completion of this Unit will provide candidates with the required underpinning knowledge and skills relating to preparing backgrounds, cutting and fixing metal lath, fixing metal trims, applying picking up coats, straightening horizontal and vertical wall areas, and apply finishing plaster.

The knowledge elements of this Unit will cover the following:

- ◆ Background preparation.
- ◆ Applying building paper
- ◆ Types of lath and their uses
- ◆ Spacing and overlaps
- ◆ Fixing and tying lath
- ◆ Plastering materials, (lightweight plasters, and metal trims)
- ◆ Safe handling of tools and materials
- ◆ Calculations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, area, perimeter)
- ◆ Workshop health and safety, (general health and safety and PPE)

The practical section of this Unit will cover the following:

- ◆ Background preparation.
- ◆ Cutting and fixing metal trims.
- ◆ Fixing and tying lath
- ◆ Fixing metal trims.
- ◆ Applying lightweight plasters, (pricking up coat, straightening coat, finishing coat)
- ◆ Safe handling of tools and materials (handling and lifting techniques.)
- ◆ Knowledge of standards/tolerances (training and assessment programme)
- ◆ Complying with workshop cleaning and maintenance
- ◆ Complying with health and safety/PPE regulations

Health and safety and sustainability are integral and key to the construction industry therefore throughout the Unit emphasis will be placed where appropriate on the application of health and safety and sustainability. Safety working practices should be looked at in accordance with current safety codes of practice and regulations. Sustainability should include reference to criteria affecting sustainability, impact of not implementing sustainability on the environment and the legislation promoting sustainability.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

## **UNIT        Plastering: Applying Coatings to Metal Lath (SCQF level 6)**

### **GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT**

The candidate should be provided with plastering materials and photographs/visual aids in a workshop environment followed by lecturer led demonstrations on how these plastering materials should be used safely and correctly.

The candidate should be introduced to a workshop environment where lecturer led demonstrations on preparing a range of backgrounds, cutting and fixing metal trims, mixing and applying lightweight plaster to prepared backgrounds to the correct thickness, flatness and plumb. The candidate should follow demonstrations which should be supported by classroom notes and group discussions and by the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Candidates may work in pairs to carry out the practical elements of this Unit.

Opportunities should be taken throughout delivery of this Unit to meet the requirements of the generic Units of the Training and Assessment Programme including:

- ◆ Conform to General Workplace Safety
- ◆ Confirm Work Activities and Resources for the Work
- ◆ Develop and Maintain Good Working Relationships
- ◆ Confirm the Occupational Method of Work
- ◆ Conform to Efficient Working Practices
- ◆ Move and Handle Resources

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

Components of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4 such as Planning and Organising and Critical Thinking will be developed as candidates undertake this Unit. Candidates will need to take account of a range of factors in order to work efficiently and safely, such as the choice of tools, appropriate materials, safety issues, safety equipment and sustainability. Individual discussions with assessors will enhance the evaluation of efficient working practices.

There are opportunities for candidates to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at SCQF level 4 as this practical assessment may be carried out working in pairs, as part of teaching and learning. Candidates can agree responsibilities and provide support and information to each other during the assessments. After assessment, they should be encouraged to consider how effectively they supported each other.

Opportunities also arise for candidates to develop the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology* at SCQF level 3 by researching Health and Safety legislation affecting their area of work.

*Numeracy* at SCQF level 4 could be developed through the interpretation of information and the use of calculation, measuring and costing exercises.

There will be opportunities for candidates to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* at SCQF level 4. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop written and/or oral communication skills for the knowledge part of the assessment for Outcome 1. As candidates complete practical tasks, they should be expected to communicate with others using the correct terminology, tone and style suited to the workplace.

### **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**



## **UNIT        Plastering: Applying Coatings to Metal Lath (SCQF level 6)**

### **GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT**

Detailed assessment material for this Unit will be found in sections 2 and 3 of the Plastering Training and Assessment Programme (TAP). Centres may use the instruments of assessment which they consider to be most appropriate but are advised to use the Plastering TAP which has been developed centrally by SQA. Any other instruments of assessment used must be comparable to the TAP and have been through prior verification.

The candidate's knowledge and understanding of terminology, techniques and construction practices and components related to applying coatings to metal laths will be assessed through a question paper.

Candidates should be given as much practise as possible in the application of coatings prior to being set the assessment. Evidence will be gathered for Outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 5 through observation of work processes and assessment of the completed workpieces to ensure that the candidates have met the given standards and tolerances during the practical assessment. An assessor observation checklist should be used to record this evidence.

#### **Opportunities for the use of e-assessment**

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

#### **DISABLED CANDIDATES AND/OR THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)