



**Scottish Vocational Qualifications 2011  
Internal Assessment Report**

**Plumbing**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Scottish Vocational Qualifications in this subject.

# SVQ Awards

Titles/levels of SVQ awards verified:

MES: Domestic Plumbing (G77H 23)

Plumbing (G9W9 23)

## General comments

This report is based on visits to 19 centres by eight External Verifiers (EVs). It includes one development visit.

Most centres have a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards. There was one exception where a centre did not understand the work experience requirement of the sector skills council (SSC) assessment strategy.

External Verifiers reported a high standard of practical work from most centres.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

This year saw the introduction of an updated Plumbing SVQ that introduced SOLAR assessments. This was generally well received, but there were a few issues with internal verification and use of IT equipment.

All assessors were familiar with the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials.

One centre had a development visit regarding SOLAR assessment.

## Evidence Requirements

Most centres have a clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements of the award. This was evidenced by External Verifiers' reports. In one case a centre did not understand the workplace evidence requirement correctly.

## Administration of assessments

All centres use nationally devised assessments that are either marked by SQA SOLAR, or use provided model answers. Practical installation work is assessed to specifications. External Verifiers' reports confirm that the standards are being met and in some instances exceeded.

Almost all of the centres that were verified had inhouse internal verification procedures that were externally verified as being fit-for-purpose and being complied with by internal verifiers. There was an exception at one centre which did not have an internal verifier available to verify assessments marked by their internal verifier.

## Further general feedback

Feedback to candidates has generally been good with EVs advising where improvements could be made. The practical assessment sheets for the new SVQ include a space for feedback to candidates. Feedback from SOLAR assessments is available to candidates immediately.

All candidates who were interviewed expressed satisfaction with the course. They stated that it was beneficial to their work and that the college experience allowed them to gain skills that they were not getting on-site — often lead work. They also had fair access to assessment. Some candidates stated that they preferred the new online method of assessment.

Some candidates stated that the online assessment in theory was good but that problems such as: wording of questions and missing information and drawings were a cause for concern.

Many candidates expressed their satisfaction with the level of support from all staff at the centres.

All centres that were verified had adequate arrangements in place for candidates to access assessment.

Candidates were normally assessed on enrolment and referred to the centre's learning support base if necessary.

Centre assessors were not aware that a breakdown of the results of SOLAR assessments could be printed out. This could provide guidance on areas where remediation was required.

### **Areas of good practice**

Many centres are now introducing virtual learning environments (VLEs) which allow candidates to study away from the centre.

One centre has included a syllabus plan within each candidate's portfolio of evidence, detailing the syllabus item, the date of completion and the assessor's signature. This keeps the candidate up to date with his/her progress.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

Centres should familiarise themselves with SQA's assessment methodology and Summitskills assessment strategy.