



# **Construction Operative and Specialist SVQs**

## **Assessment Methodology**

**February 2017**

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# Assessment Methodology for Construction Operative and Specialist SVQs

This paper outlines the assessment methodology that must be applied to the SVQs contained in Appendix 1.

These SVQs have been developed by ConstructionSkills which is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Construction. Part of the guidance and criteria covering SVQs requires the SSC to produce an assessment strategy. This must be followed by both awarding bodies and centres. It is designed to give greater clarity and guidance to the assessment of SVQs to ensure their quality and promote confidence in those who gain them.

This assessment methodology gives you information on the main points of the assessment strategy and how it will affect your centre.

## 1 External Quality Control of assessment

Control of assessment will be through centre based activity and workplace evidence. As part of these SVQs candidates will be required to provide valid and reliable evidence of commonly occurring competences. Assessors and Verifiers will be required by the awarding body to hold the qualifications stipulated in Section 3.

Risk assessment information will provide one of the inputs to the verification planning process so that the frequency of verification visits may be adjusted if required. External verification visits will normally take place annually. SQA reserves the right to increase the frequency of external verification visits to a particular centre should the need be identified. Centre will be required to carry out their own risk assessments.

## 2 Simulation and workplace evidence

Some performance evidence will be derived from assessments undertaken in an assessment centre. These assessments must be derived from situations that realistically and authentically simulate workplace conditions, in accordance with the general criteria that form part of the full assessment strategy. The standards specify the evidence that must be obtained from situations which realistically simulate workplace conditions.

Where simulation is allowed, it must only be practised under the conditions of a realistic working environment, which is defined as:

- ◆ A place where the provision of the occupational work activities are carried out.
- ◆ Working conditions should reflect those found in the workplace (which may include the customers' premises) and include facilities, appliances, systems and controls used in the workplace for the activities being assessed. The simulation must also replicate the constraints and pressures of the workplace.

Evidence for competence qualifications and units derived from the National Occupational Standards (NOS) must be worked-based. Simulation is only allowed for some additional items within some National Occupational Standards (NOS) for specific details see Appendix 2.

## **2.1 Physical conditions**

- ◆ The size and scale of the area in which the work is taking place should be full size, matching the type of installation location that would be found on an authentic job or site.
- ◆ Any wall or floor and roof construction or finishes should be in materials that are used for real life construction.
- ◆ Positioning of work should simulate real life work situations — if work at heights is a requirement of the evidence, then provision for work at heights should be made, if work under floors is an evidence requirement then authentic provision must be made.
- ◆ The Health and Safety practices should also simulate real life work situations — including the wearing of appropriate PPE.

## **2.2 System components**

- ◆ Any system components that candidates are required to install in simulated conditions should be of the types, sizes, and general condition of components that candidates would be required to install on the job.

## **2.3 Working arrangements**

- ◆ Working arrangements under which candidates are intended to produce evidence in simulated conditions should replicate arrangements within the workplace. The arrangements should generally permit each candidate to provide evidence for all competences for which the simulated facility is intended.
- ◆ Candidates working in simulated conditions should be provided with the job information that they would normally receive on the job — this may include verbal or written instructions, drawings or specifications appropriate to the type of installation activity.
- ◆ Candidates should not receive either directly or indirectly, assistance from other candidates or guidance from the work of other candidates, which will reduce the value of the evidence as a reliable and valid measure of the candidate's competence.

Where real life job situations would normally require operatives to be given assistance, with for instance heavy or bulky components, then this should be permitted in work situations which simulate normal working conditions. However the role of persons acting as assistants in work simulated situations should be clearly defined by the awarding body and controlled by the assessment centre.

## **2.4 Work evidence**

The assessment strategy which ConstructionSkills developed for the construction SVQs requires that candidates produce evidence from the workplace. This is a vital

part of the SVQs and will help towards ensuring that anyone gaining a Construction SVQ is fully competent to industry standards. For this reason it is important that every candidate undertaking one of these SVQs is able to produce evidence of workplace activity.

Centres should use a suitable method of recording this evidence as SQA External Verifiers (EVs) will ask to see work evidence during centre visits. SQA have developed Candidate Portfolios for this purpose which centres may wish to use. The EV will need to be assured that the centre has an effective system for recording and storing work evidence in a manner that is accessible and which allows the Verifier to view them on request.

### **3 Expertise of Assessors, Internal Verifiers and External Verifiers**

#### **Assessors**

Assessors for these SVQs must be occupationally competent (Craft/Trade specific) and must have an up-to-date working knowledge of the sector, they must:

- ◆ hold an in-depth knowledge of the National Occupational Standards for the sector.
- ◆ have operational experience appropriate to the level of SVQ they intend to assess (they must still be working in the sector).
- ◆ hold or be working towards a qualification as listed within 'Assessing and Assuring Quality of Assessment':

either in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF):

- Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment
- Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement

or the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF):

- an appropriate Assessor qualification as identified by SQA Accreditation

or hold one of the following:

- A1 Assess the candidate using a range of methods
- D32/33 Assess candidate performance, using differing sources or evidence

Holders of A1 and D32/33 must be working to the reviewed National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Learning and Development.

All Assessors must:

- ◆ have a sound in-depth knowledge of the national occupational standards and requirements of the SVQ; they must also have an understanding of the awarding body policies and procedures.
- ◆ only assess in their acknowledged area of occupational competence.
- ◆ be registered with their approved centre and be accountable to that organisation for their assessment practice.

- ◆ demonstrate a commitment to uphold the integrity of the national occupational standards and their assessment practices.
- ◆ be prepared to participate in training initiatives for their continued professional development.
- ◆ provide evidence of their ability to maintain occupational competence thus keeping their technical knowledge and skills up-to-date.

Ideally, Assessors will not be involved in the training of candidates. However, if this places an unrealistic assessment burden on the approved centre, it is acceptable as long as the criteria for trainers is met and assessment of their own candidates does not take place.

### **Internal Verifiers**

Internal Verifiers for the SVQs must:

- ◆ have an in-depth knowledge of National Occupational Standards for the sector.
- ◆ have up to date operational experience appropriate to the level of SVQ they intend to verify (they must still be working in the sector).
- ◆ hold or be working towards a qualification as listed within 'Assessing and Assuring Quality of Assessment':

either in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF):

- Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process and Practice
- Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process and Practice

or the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF):

- an appropriate Internal Verifier qualification as identified by SQA Accreditation

or hold one of the following:

- V1 Conduct internal quality assurance of the assessment process
- D34 Internally verify the assessment process

Holders of V1 and D34 must quality assure to the reviewed National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Learning and Development.

Internal Verifiers must be in a position to contribute to and influence an approved centre's assessment policy. They should be EITHER:

employed by the same organisation as the Assessors.

### **OR**

working in partnership with the approved centre and have access to the evidence used by the Assessors.

All Internal Verifiers must:

- ◆ have a sound in-depth knowledge of the national occupational standards and SVQ requirements for the assessments they are verifying. They must also have a good understanding of the awarding body policies and procedures.
- ◆ demonstrate a commitment to uphold the integrity of the national occupational standards and their assessment and verification practices.
- ◆ be prepared to participate in training initiatives for their continued professional development.
- ◆ provide evidence of their ability to maintain occupational competence thus keeping their technical knowledge and skills up-to-date.

### **External Verifiers**

External Verifiers must have an up-to-date working knowledge of the sector, this is defined as:

- ◆ having in-depth knowledge of the National Occupational Standards for the sector.
- ◆ involvement in the delivery of training and skills development activities within the sector.

External Verifiers must:

- ◆ hold or be working towards a qualification as listed within 'Assessing and Assuring Quality of Assessment':

either in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF):

- Level 4 Award in the External Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process and Practice
- Level 4 Certificate in Leading the External Quality Assurance of Assessment

or the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF):

- an appropriate External Verifier qualification as identified by SQA Accreditation

or hold one of the following:

- V2 Conduct external quality assurance of the assessment process
- D35 Externally verify the assessment process

Holders of V2 and D35 must quality assure to the reviewed National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Learning and Development.

- ◆ demonstrate a commitment to uphold the integrity of the National Occupational Standards and their assessment and verification practices.
- ◆ be prepared to participate in training initiatives for their continued professional development.
- ◆ demonstrate their ability to maintain credibility with the sector and to retain the confidence of the sector through commitment to on-going personal and professional development.

## **4 Independent external assessment**

Some of these SVQs contain the CITB Health and Safety Test as a mandatory Unit. The aim of the Health and Safety test is to promote health and safety awareness and to reduce on-site injuries. The test is a 45 minute interactive computer test which can be taken at driving test centres and other approved centres.

## **5 Documentation**

Documentation and further information can be obtained from the following address:

Scottish Qualifications Authority  
The Optima Building  
58 Robertson Street  
Glasgow  
G2 8DQ



# Appendix 1

Title	Level
Applied Waterproof Membranes (Construction) (Built Up Bituminous Roofing)	2
Associated Industrial Services (Construction) (Water Jetting)	2
Construction: Plant Maintenance	1
Construction: Plant Maintenance	2
Construction: Plant Maintenance	3
Construction Operations (Construction)	2
Controlling Lifting Operations	2
Controlling Lifting Operations: Planning Lifts	3
Controlling Lifting Operations: Supervising Lifts	3
General Building Operations (Construction)	2
Highways Maintenance (Construction)	2
Roadbuilding (Construction)	2
SVQ 2 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction): Lightning Conductor Engineer	
SVQ 2 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction): Scaffolding	
SVQ 2 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction): Steeplejacking	
SVQ 3 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction): Lightning Conductor Engineering	
SVQ 3 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction): Scaffolding and Offshore Scaffolding	
SVQ 3 Accessing Operations and Rigging (Construction): Steeplejacking	
SVQ 2 Cladding Occupations (Construction): Roof, Sheeting and Cladding	
SVQ 2 Cladding Occupations (Construction): Specialised Cladding and Rainscreen Systems	
SVQ 3 Cladding Occupations (Construction): Roof, Sheeting and Cladding	
SVQ 1 Construction and Civil Engineering Services	
SVQ 2 Formwork (Construction)	
SVQ 2 Interior Systems (Construction): Access Flooring	
SVQ 2 Interior Systems (Construction): Cavity Barrier Installation	
SVQ 2 Interior Systems (Construction): Ceiling Fixing	
SVQ 2 Interior Systems (Construction): Dry Lining - Finishing	
SVQ 2 Interior Systems (Construction): Dry Lining - Fixing	
SVQ 2 Interior Systems (Construction): Interior Fixer and Sheeter	
SVQ 2 Interior Systems (Construction): Partitioning	
SVQ 2 Plant Operations (Construction)	
SVQ 2 Wood Occupations (Construction): Shopfitting Site Work	
SVQ 2 Wood Occupations (Construction): Shopfitting Bench Work	
SVQ 3 Wood Occupations (Construction): Shopfitting Site Work	
SVQ 3 Wood Occupations (Construction): Shopfitting Bench Work	
SVQ 2 Steelfixing Occupations (Construction)	
SVQ 2 Thermal Insulation	
SVQ 2 Construction Operations and Civil Engineering Services	

## Appendix 2

### Simulation Information @ 14/03/2016

Evidence for competence qualifications and units derived from the following National Occupational Standards (NOS) must be work-based. Simulation is only allowed for the additional information items as detailed below. For a competence outcome, simulation must be conducted in accordance with the Construction Consolidated Assessment Strategy.

Nos No	Whereabouts in NOS	Occupational Suite	Level
VR17	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Wood Preserving	L2
VR18	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Wood Preserving	L2
VR19	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Wood Preserving	L2
VR49	Additional information items 9.1 or 9.2 of Performance Criteria 5 and must only form one of the three items required	Trowel Occupations Heritage Skills	L3 L3
VR87	Additional information item 3 of Performance Criteria 1	Mastic Asphalt	L1, L2 & L3
VR88	Additional information item 3 of Performance Criteria 1	Mastic Asphalt	L1
VR89	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Mastic Asphalt	L2 & L3
VR90	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Mastic Asphalt	L2
VR91	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Mastic Asphalt	L2 & L3
VR92	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Mastic Asphalt	L3
VR240	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Specialist Installation Occupations	L2
VR241	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Specialist Installation Occupations	L2
VR242	Additional information item 4 of Performance Criteria 2	Specialist Installation Occupations	L2
VR283v1	Additional information item 10.8 (version 1 revised in Nov 2014) of Performance Criteria 5 RITS ref L/600/8468		
VR283v2	Additional information item 9.9 (version 2) of Performance Criteria 5 - RITS ref M/507/2542	Roofing Occupations	L2 & L3
VR332	Additional information item 9.2 of Performance Criteria 5	Decorative Finishing and Industrial Painting Occupations	L2 & L3
VR403v1	Additional information item 6 (version 1 revised in NOV 2013) of Performance Criteria 3 RITS ref D/600/8104		
VR403v2	Additional information item 5 (version 2) of Performance Criteria 3 - RITS ref L/506/4674	Plant Operations Construction Diving Ops	L2 L2

Cont.....

Nos No	Whereabouts in NOS	Occupational Suite	Level
VR487	Additional information item 9.3 of Performance Criteria 5	Sub-Structure Work Occupations	L2
VR489	Additional information item 9.6 of Performance Criteria 5	Sub-Structure Work Occupations	L2
VR588	Additional information items 10, 10.1, 10.2 and 11 of Performance Criteria 5	Senior Crafts	L4
VR589	Additional information items, 10, 11 and 12 of Performance Criteria 5	Senior Crafts	L4
VR590	Additional information items 9, 9.1 to 9.7 of Performance Criteria 5	Senior Crafts	L4
VR597	Additional information items 9, 9.1 to 9.7 of Performance Criteria 5	Senior Crafts	L4
VR598	Additional information items 9, 9.1 to 9.6 of Performance Criteria 5	Senior Crafts	L4
VR602	Additional information items 9.1 to 9.5 of Performance Criteria 5 may have a sample produced by simulation on a nominal area of 9m <sup>2</sup> with nominal block size of 400mm x 300mm and include architectural feature	Senior Crafts	L4
VR603	Additional information items 9.1 or 9.2 of Performance Criteria 5 and only allowed for one item, not both Additional information item 12 of Performance Criteria 5	Senior Crafts	L4
VR614	Additional information item 3 of Performance Criteria 2	Post Tensioning Ops	L2
VR615	Additional information item 3 of Performance Criteria 2	Post Tensioning Ops	L2
VR616	Additional information item 3 of Performance Criteria 2	Post Tensioning Ops	L2

NB: Additional item has moved position due to revision of NOS