



## NQ Verification 2015–16 Key Messages Round 2

01

### Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Engineering Science
Verification event/visiting information	Postal and visiting verification
Date published:	June 2016

#### National Courses/Units verified:

H23E 74 National 4 Added value unit  
C723 75 National 5 Internally assessed component of course assessment  
C723 76 Higher Internally assessed component of course assessment

02

### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

The use of SQA-produced assessments is mandatory for the National 5 and Higher course assignments. With regard to this, all verified centres were found to have used appropriate approaches to assessment.

It should be noted that when candidates progress from National 4 to Advanced Higher, there should be progressively less scaffolding from the class teacher. Where there is teacher assistance, this should be noted on the marking sheet and in the record of progress. Likewise, the number of marks awarded to the candidate should reflect the amount of teacher assistance at each stage.

#### Assessment judgements

Of the centres verified, the majority were given 'accepted' verification judgements. However, the remainder required additional support and were required to amend mark allocations to bring them in line with national standards.

#### **National 4**

Centres verified for the National 4 added value unit were found to have an understanding of the evidence requirements for this assessment instrument.

Please note that no marks are allocated at National 4 — judgements are made on whether candidates have provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate the meeting of a range of assessment standards (as defined by the judging evidence table).

As the added value unit is an ungraded assessment, a limited amount of observational evidence is acceptable. In such cases, it is crucial that a written and signed teacher statement is provided, stating that the teacher has witnessed the achievement of the assessment standard.

#### **National 5 and Higher**

In the course assignment for National 5 and Higher, no observational evidence is permitted and marks can only be awarded where clear evidence is present (please see notes on teacher assistance above).

Centres must use the most up-to-date assignments from the SQA secure site. This session, the mark allocation changed from band descriptors to a marks rubric which provided additional clarity. This has been well received by the field, however some centres are still assessing against the band descriptors — causing some confusion.

Assessment must be based on whether the work truly demonstrates application of knowledge at a minimum of the assessed level. For example, at National 5, closed-loop control would be expected within the analysis section. At Higher, either two-state or proportional closed-loop control in the form of a control diagram would be expected.

The same can be said for other areas of the assignment — to attain a high mark in the record of progress, sufficient depth must be supplied to demonstrate the application of skills at that level. Centres should provide justification of why a mark was awarded, signposting where to find the evidence and giving clear detail on the amount of teacher support given.

03

### **Section 3: General comments**

Two centres were verified for the National 4 added value unit (postal verification) and 21 centres were verified for National 5/Higher where visits took place. A range of Understanding Standards materials are now available and more will follow shortly — these will assist in making assessment judgements. In addition, further training will take place next year to support subject teachers in the assessment process.

It is crucial that centres demonstrate effective use of internal verification procedures and show what impact internal verification processes have had.