



**Higher National Qualifications  
Internal Assessment Report 2013  
Sheet Plate and Welding**

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

# Higher National Units

## General comments

Only one centre was visited for HN provision this year and two centres took part in central verification for the Graded Unit. Based on the feedback from the External Verifiers' reports of the centres verified in 2012/13, there was strong evidence that the centres placed a high priority on national standards. This was fully reflected in the standard of the assessments presented for external verification.

The centres delivered a broad range of Units from all aspects of Fabrication, Welding and Inspection and the materials presented were of a high standard, fully reflecting HN level.

The Units being undertaken across the centres were:

- ◆ Fabrication, Welding, Inspection and NDT
- ◆ Fabrication and Welding Materials
- ◆ Welding Principles and Applications 1
- ◆ Fabrication and Forming Processes
- ◆ Fabrication: Preparation, Joining and Assembly

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Based on the External Verifier feedback from the centres, assessors are familiar with all assessment materials associated with the Units verified.

The visited centre was part of SQA's new approach to quality assurance and this proved to be a thorough examination of the centre's quality assurance process and procedures against national standards. The centre was given very positive feedback in areas of good practice, along with some recommendations. They produced excellent assessment materials along with evidence of robust marking schemes and useful candidate feedback for each Unit. In addition, good practice was highlighted through the use of a 'Candidate Own Work' statement, the use of a pre- external verification visit and the availability of alternative assessment materials for candidates.

## Evidence Requirements

Based on External Verifier feedback from the centres verified there was clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements for the Units verified. Candidates produced good quality assessment materials within all Units which reflected well on the centres' understanding of Evidence Requirements.

### **Administration of assessments**

Administration arrangements were good in the visited centre with supporting procedures and documentation readily available. Robust internal verification procedures ensured assessments were carried out appropriately and standards were being fully met.

It was encouraging to see that staff had appeared to take ownership of the internal verification process and were making an excellent contribution to the delivery and development of assessment materials.

### **General feedback**

In the visited centre the internal verification process included comprehensive candidate and staff feedback. This proved to be beneficial to both candidates and assessors/verifiers.

### **Areas of good practice**

It was clear that staff undertook appropriate staff development and assessors and verifiers were given the opportunity to update their qualifications. In addition:

- ◆ Good use was made of candidate feedback
- ◆ Centres had good and workable internal verification procedures in place
- ◆ Good use of alternative assessment materials

### **Specific areas for improvement**

None identified.

# Higher National Graded Units

## **Titles/levels of HN Graded Units verified:**

DR 37 34 Fabrication Welding and Inspection

## **General comments**

Two centres were selected for central verification.

## **Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials**

The instruments of assessment were set by a consortium of presenting centres and fully met requirements. The question paper was well prepared and covered a wide range of specific subject areas within the fabrication and welding industry.

## **Evidence Requirements**

There was sufficient evidence presented to External Verifiers.

## **Administration of assessments**

The administration arrangements for the central verification event were varied, with inconsistency across centres with regard to the completion of supporting paperwork accompanying assessment scripts.

## **General feedback**

The External Verifiers accepted the assessment decisions made by both the assessor and Internal Verifier. Where there was minor adjustments required this did not affect the candidates' results.

In general there was a good standard of work presented by candidates and this was encouraging.

## **Areas of good practice**

None identified.

## **Specific areas for improvement**

Candidate evidence presented suggested that centres should encourage candidates to improve the quality of their drawing and sketching. This would go a long way in improving the quality of their responses. It is worth noting that this is a consistent comment every year.