



Internal Assessment Report: SfW Engineering Skills (412)

Sector Panel or SSC: Engineering, Science and Mathematics

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

National Units

Titles/levels of National Units verified

C243 10	SfW Engineering Skills at Intermediate 1
F19C 10	Engineering Skills: Mechanical
F19D 10	Engineering Skills: Electrical/Electronic
F19F 10	Engineering Skills: Fabrication
F19H 10	Engineering Skills: Manufacture and Assembly

C253 11	SfW Engineering Skills at Intermediate 2
F39B 11	Engineering Skills: Mechanical and Fabrication
F39C 11	Engineering Skills: Electrical and Electronic
F39D 11	Engineering Skills: Maintenance
F39 E 11	Engineering Skills: Design and Manufacture

General comments

Verifiers found clear evidence of the following:

- ◆ Assessors had a good understanding of the Unit specifications and their requirements.
- ◆ Centre staff made good use of support materials, such as SQA-generated NABs and SFEU materials, to motivate candidates. This resulted in little or no variance of assessment across centres.
- ◆ Good centre-devised internal verification procedures, with assessors adhering to these.
- ◆ Highly committed centre staff.
- ◆ Candidates' practical work was strong and had been marked well.

Assessors need to review their feedback to candidates during review and to record this accordingly.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development

Good practice observed

Verifiers commented on assessors carrying out centre-devised internal verification procedures. Only one centre had developed and used its own assessment material. The others used the SQA-devised NABs, which is understandable as this was the first year that most centres had used the awards and Units.

Verifiers informed assessors, during feedback sessions, of the importance of developing their own assessment material to make sure any candidate's reassessment is valid and reliable.

The majority of centre assessors worked with partner schools/colleges and employers to enthuse their candidates on careers within the engineering sector. College staff were, in many instances, offering this Course as an access route to full-time education.

The majority of assessors do not regard completing candidate review sheets, and recording feedback on employability skills, as important as acquiring practical skills. Verifiers recommended that assessors take more time over this part of each Unit, as employers have identified these skills as necessary for prospective employment.

Verifiers noted that all practical work presented was of a very high standard and met the criteria laid down in the Unit specifications. One centre had integrated the Unit assessments into one project where candidates made parts for a kit car.

Verifiers found that, in the majority of schools, candidates being put forward had the overwhelming support of the headteacher.

Areas for further development

A few assessors commented on the standard of candidates that schools had targeted for the award, noting that attendance had become an issue affecting candidate achievement. Verifiers advised that assessors should have an input in the selection process, and this approach was identified as beneficial by those centres not experiencing this issue.

Centres should note that SQA arranges an annual support network event for assessors/practitioners to share experiences and good practice. This is normally attended by all the verifiers (if available). It is usually held in June; the date will be circulated to centre contacts. It would be beneficial for centres to send people to attend this.