



**Higher National Qualifications
Internal Assessment Report 2012
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

Based on the feedback from the External Verifier reports, the centres visited in 2011–12 had a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards. This was fully reflected in the standard of the assessments presented for external verification. There was strong evidence that the centres placed a high priority around the national standards and ensured that these were being met.

The centres delivered a broad range of Units from all aspects of Fabrication, Welding and Inspection and the materials presented confirmed their understanding of the requirements of national standards.

The Units that were undertaken across the centres were:

- ◆ Fabrication and Welding Materials
- ◆ Weld Procedure, Specification and Testing
- ◆ Welding Principles and Applications 2
- ◆ Fabrication and Welding Materials
- ◆ Welding Principles and Applications 1
- ◆ Fabrication and Forming Processes
- ◆ Welding Procedures, Specification, Qualification and Testing
- ◆ Fabrication: Preparation Joining and Assembly

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Based on the External Verifier feedback from the centres visited in 2011–12, assessors are familiar with all assessment materials associated with the Units verified.

One of the centres was part of SQA's new approach to external verification and this proved to be a thorough examination of the centre's quality assurance process and procedures against national standards. This centre was given very positive feedback. They produced excellent assessment materials along with evidence of good, robust marking schemes and useful candidate feedback for each Unit.

Evidence Requirements

Based on the External Verifier feedback from the centres visited in 2011–12, 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 the Evidence Requirements.

Administration of assessments

Administration arrangements were good in all centres with supporting procedures and documentation. Robust internal verification procedures ensured assessments were carried out appropriately and standards were 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 some instances the internal verification process included comprehensive candidate feedback, especially where Units were being delivered for the first time. This proved to be beneficial to both candidates and assessors/verifiers.

Areas of good practice

Centres are to be complimented on their excellent use of resources.

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

Good use was made of candidate feedback.

Centres had good and workable internal verification procedures in place.

Higher National Graded Units

Titles/levels of HN Graded Units verified:

DR 37 34 Fabrication Welding and Inspection

General comments

Only one centre was 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

Sufficient evidence was presented to the External Verifiers.

Administration of assessments

Not all materials were supplied to SQA for the central verification event thereby causing a delay in the external verification process. This was rectified and external verification took place.

General feedback

The External Verifiers accepted the assessment decisions made by both the assessor and Internal Verifier. Where minor adjustments were required this did not affect the candidates' results. The allocation of marks in the candidates' work sampled on the day could have been more stringent and this was fully reflected in the external verification report.

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

Only one centre's work was presented for verification so the comments submitted relate to that centre.

Specific areas for improvement

Candidates' evidence presented suggested that centres should encourage candidates to improve their quality of drawing and sketching. This would go a long way to improving the quality of responses.