



Higher National Qualifications

And

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Senior Verifier Report

2008

Subject: **SVQs and Customised Awards Covered by
OPITO and Oil Related Awards (52)**

Sector Panel or SSC:

Date: **28th August 2008**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification which has taken place within Higher National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications in this subject.

HIGHER NATIONAL UNITS

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

Insert details relating to specific guidance which should be offered to centres based on the verification of centres.

Include:

- *General comments*
- *Areas of good practice*
- *Areas for further development*

General comments:

Not applicable.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Not applicable.

HIGHER NATIONAL GRADED UNITS

TITLES/LEVELS OF HN GRADED UNITS VERIFIED

Insert details below

Not applicable.

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

Insert details relating to specific guidance which should be offered to centres based on the verification of centres.

Include:

- *General comment*
- *Areas of good practice*
- *Areas for further development*

General comments:

Not applicable.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Not applicable.

SVQ AWARDS

TITLES/LEVELS OF SVQ AWARDS VERIFIED

Insert details below

SVQs

G8LY 21	Processing Operations: Hydrocarbons Level 1
G5XW 21	Processing Operations: Hydrocarbons Level 1
G5XX 23	Processing Operations: Hydrocarbons Level 3
G5XY 23	Processing Operations: Hydrocarbons (Control Room) Level 3
G8M8 23	Processing Operations: Hydrocarbons Level 3
G8M7 23	Processing Operations: Hydrocarbons (Control Room) Level 3
G7RT 22	Processing Engineering Maintenance (Instrument and Control) Level 2
G7RL 23	Processing Engineering Maintenance (Instrument and Control) Level 3
G7RM 22	Processing Engineering Maintenance (Mechanical) Level 2
G7RN 23	Processing Engineering Maintenance (Mechanical) Level 3
G7RP 22	Processing Engineering Maintenance (Electrical) Level 2
G7RR 23	Processing Engineering Maintenance (Electrical) Level 3
G5Y6 22	Mechanical Wireline Level 2
G6X3 22	Offshore Deck Operations Level 2

Customised Awards

G4RH 04	Offshore Crane Operations
G74C 04	Operations Supervisor
G7JE	Processing Hydrocarbons

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

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General comments:

Again, as in previous years, the Centres were mature and the materials presented reflected the normal year-on-year betterment realised by continuous improvement processes, internal audits and the accord between the Centres and the External Verifiers.

The requirement for Duty Holders and their contractors to assure the competence of the overall workforce was a central recommendation in Lord Cullen's report following the Piper Alpha disaster that resulted in the death of 167 people on board. It is poignant that the 6th July, 2008 marked the 20th anniversary of the disaster. For the past 20 years organisations have been using SVQs, customized awards and a combination of the two to assure the competence of their workforces. It is therefore inevitable that the majority of people working in the sector have been catered for and the numbers of deemed competent people following the awards have reduced.

In the same period it was realized that the working population offshore was aging and the terminal decline of the North Sea operations much exaggerated. It became evident that great efforts had to be made to train sufficient people to sustain North Sea Operations. This has been most successful and there are now around 600 Modern Apprentices under training. The normal SQA candidate is therefore tending to be a trainee and this puts competence assurance back to where the SVQ initiative started from.

It is inevitable that the numbers working in the sector globally are, and will continue to grow. This has been brought about by the demand for energy from the emerging economies and the inevitable increase in the price of oil. Again, 2008 provided yet another landmark when the spot price of oil reached \$150 per barrel.

This has resulted in Centres operating in more and more countries. Generally, Centres have risen to this challenge and have invested in resources to ensure the quality of provision of the awards.

An issue that has been contained was due to the fallout resulting from the incremental review of the suite of awards relating to Processing Operations: Hydrocarbons. Although the occupational standards remained relatively unchanged the new evidence requirements caused some confusion amongst Centres. The notion that some assessments on processes would be solely knowledge based seemed, in the view of some, to be contrary to the fundamental way in which competence was assessed. This fear has now been allayed and a very effective way in which this was done was down to the Oil & Gas Quality Network meeting organized by SQA at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre in March, 2008. The event was well attended and the feedback received from the Centres showed this to be very successful.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

The quality of material produced by the Centres again improved during the year and several Centres have investigated online reporting.

Although the structure of SVQ delivery teams in the North Sea remains the same and it is not feasible to bring everyone together Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and standardization have been managed well.

Investment in the assessment of emergency response functions remains high for all the right reasons. Although most of the assessments are carried out under simulated conditions the issue of Real Working Environments (RWE) is well understood and considered.

The source of OPITO Assessment Strategies was not fully understood by some Centres and in some cases the External Verifiers had to provide these at the time of the visit. Given the other guidance the Centres possessed then non-compliance was never an issue.

Although there continued to be issues raised by the External Verifiers, these were seen to be of a minor nature and the Centres were resolved in closing these out. One Centre even submitted detailed confirmation of the actions taken to remedy issues identified

NATIONAL UNITS

(i.e. Freestanding units which contribute to NPAs or NCs etc.)

TITLES/LEVELS OF NATIONAL UNITS VERIFIED

Insert details below

Not applicable.

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

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Not applicable.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Not applicable.