



Internal Assessment Report (2009):

Skills for Work (Construction) and National Progression Award (Construction)

Sector Panel or SSC:

ConstructionSkills

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

Units within the Skills for Work Construction NQ

General comments

The Skills for Work (SfW) award in Construction continues to be extremely successful and enjoys a high demand from candidates and centres. There is now evidence that a significant number of the SfW candidates are progressing to Modern Apprenticeships in construction.

In general, the external verification visits were very successful and identified a wide range of good practices across centres, as identified in this report.

Advice on good practice

A total of 27 external verifiers' visit reports were considered for this report. The following are some examples of the areas of good practice identified during these visits.

- ◆ In general the standard of practical evidence was very good.
- ◆ Good methods were used in providing secondary evidence, in the form of well tabulated photographs of candidates with their product evidence.
- ◆ Well structured individual candidates' portfolio building was identified in many centres.
- ◆ Excellent practical project work was undertaken, and these presented many opportunities of providing evidence for the Employability Skills Units.
- ◆ Staff CPD was being implemented in many centres to enable staff to attend practical courses and upgrade their own practical skills to meet the needs of the SfW award.
- ◆ Clear documentation of SfW team meetings was taking place.
- ◆ The Employability Skills Unit was being integrated with the practical Units and other activities (eg project work).
- ◆ Standard construction site PPE was being implemented in many centres.
- ◆ Candidates kept logbooks of their practical SfW activities.
- ◆ Classroom/vocational assistants were available to support additional candidates' needs when required.
- ◆ A wide range of Employability Skills were demonstrated by candidates in the context of their workshop activities.

Areas for further development

- ◆ An individual candidate portfolio system should be encouraged, rather than class group folders.

- ◆ Self reviews should be conducted across each of the crafts during attendance at these craft subjects.
- ◆ Internal verification should be consolidated across all craft subjects being delivered in each centre.
- ◆ Standard construction PPE should be encouraged and developed as best practice in construction workshops.
- ◆ Standardised pro formas should be used for photographic evidence that is being presented as secondary evidence. These pro formas should provide for items such as dates and signatures.
- ◆ Record keeping in general should keep pace with the reality of the Course progress.
- ◆ Candidates should self-assess their work, as provided for in the SfW checklists/documentation.
- ◆ Candidate support such as classroom assistants should be encouraged as best practice if and when required.

Component/coursework in National Courses

Component/coursework verified

Construction Units within the NQ National Progression Award (NPA)

General comments

Brickwork NPA Units

The standard of work for the NPA Units sampled was very good and in some cases was matching the standards being produced by the modern bricklaying apprentices. This new construction award is proving to be successful and is providing an invaluable craft skills training alternative to candidates and centres.

Areas of good practice

Brickwork NPA (171)

There is a range of best practices being developed which closely reflect the standards of the current Brickwork SVQ. These include:

- ◆ Candidates are receiving relevant written feedback on their work and progress.
- ◆ Sensible methods of remediation for performance and knowledge evidence are being implemented in many centres.
- ◆ PPE is being implemented in many workshops in line with industrial practices and current best practice.
- ◆ Health and Safety is being implemented in many workshops in line with industrial practices.
- ◆ Good working relationships are being established between Assessors, Internal Verifiers, External Verifiers and candidates.
- ◆ There is a wide range of excellent practical work in evidence, with very high skill levels being demonstrated during NPA EV visits.

Areas for further development

- ◆ The approach to generating evidence for the generic Units needs to be standardised.
- ◆ Candidates' drawings and sketches were disappointing in some of the assessment work sampled. A strong focus is required on developing drawing and sketching skills.
- ◆ The wearing of standard construction PPE in workshops is to be encouraged for NPA candidates.