



National Qualifications 2008

Internal Assessment Report

Subject: **Practical Craft Skills**

Assessment Panel: **Technical Education**

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

NATIONAL UNITS

TITLES/LEVELS OF NATIONAL UNITS VERIFIED

Practical Craft Skills: 318

Woodworking Skills

D183 10 Carcase Construction

D183 11 Carcase Construction

D184 10 Machining and Finishing

D184 11 Machining and Finishing

Engineering Craft Skills

D179 10 Machine Processes

D179 11 Machine Processes

D180 10 Fabrication and Thermal Joining Techniques

D180 11 Fabrication and Thermal Joining Techniques

General comments:

This year Unit verification was primarily conducted in conjunction with Course Project verification. Very few centres were selected for stand-alone Unit verification.

Where available, the evidence for Unit verification was of a good standard, comparable with that produced for Course Project verification. It has to be reported, however, that a few centres struggled to produce the required evidence for verification.

This difficulty was mainly due to the following:

1. Centres allowed candidates to remove work, prior to completion dates registered with SQA.
2. Some centres were not fully aware of requirements for Unit verification

With some negotiation, verification was carried out in all centres. Centres **must** retain unit evidence for three weeks after the completion date submitted to SQA, and retain Course Project evidence until certification.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Centres should ensure they are fully aware which Unit is being verified, and confirm this with the Verifier during initial contact.

Most centres have adopted the technique of recording progress and assessment in the form of a checklist, the benefits of this are three-fold as it allows candidate, teacher and visiting verifier to see at a glance what has been achieved and what has still to be overtaken in terms of Learning Outcomes. All centres are encouraged to use this method of recording progress.

For verification of a Unit to be successful then there should be candidate evidence of assessment for all Learning Outcomes within that unit, whether written or practical and all Instruments of Assessment should be available.

Centres must not release work to candidates for removal until after three weeks after the completion date submitted to SQA for unit work. Completion dates submitted to SQA are used to determine verification visits.

COMPONENT / COURSEWORK IN NATIONAL COURSES

COMPONENT/COURSEWORK VERIFIED

Course Project:	Woodworking Skills	C035
	Engineering Craft Skills	C034

General comments:

Woodworking Skills and Engineering Craft Skills are now well embedded in the vast majority of presenting centres. This has resulted in the courses being very well delivered within the centres where appropriate assessment procedures are in place.

There is ample evidence from verifier reports to suggest that the improvement in the quality of craft skills over the past years is a continuing trend, there is evidence of a very high standard of work in many centres and they are commended for this.

During verification visits presenting staff expressed their comfort with the course, both in terms of course content and their ability to manage and deliver within the timescales. This is reflected in the fact that this year no centres required a revisit based on the fact that candidates' work was not progressed enough for verification to take place.

A few centres are still not fully using the Master Record Sheet; they are encouraged to do so as it is invaluable to the visiting verifier in the justification of centres grades for individual candidates during the verification exercise.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Administration

Verifiers will always assist in ensuring centres are prepared for verification visit. With this in mind centres should always be clear what is being verified, Unit Course Project or both.

It is the responsibility of the centre to be prepared for verification. In the case of Course Project then this will include the following:

1. Ensure appropriate accommodation for verifier to carry out verification exercise.
2. VS00 Verification Sample Form should be complete.
3. Complete Master Record Sheet including notes on candidate performance.
4. All other appropriate paperwork including Working Drawings.
5. All evidence for candidates on VS00 should be available, including substitutes.
6. If there is going to be a problem being ready for the agreed visit contact SQA to re-arrange.

Woodworking Skills

Most centres still tend to use the clock as the preferred Course Project, although the single door cabinet is being used as an alternative.

There has been a marked improvement in the joint making processes. Centres should continue to improve on squaring of shoulders and reduction in joint gaps.

The main areas of concern now appear to centre on shaping and the preparation for and application of finish. Presenting staff should focus on the following:

1. Finishing internal curves.
2. Ensuring capping pieces on crown of clock are matching and attached as per drawing.
3. All chamfers are crisp and not rounded.
4. All pencil lines are removed.
5. All pieces are thoroughly sanded before assembly, ensuring not to round corners.
6. Ensure all blemishes are removed before applying finish.

The majority of centres now supply a working drawing and/or template for the turnery aspect of the Course Project. Where this was not provided presenting staff were advised to ensure that this is in place for future visits. Wherever there is scope for “candidates own design” then evidence of that design should be made available.

Engineering Craft Skills

The uptake of Engineering Craft Skills is steadily increasing.

The preferred Course Project for most schools is still the Bike Clamp, although there has been real enthusiasm for the Wind Vane with the candidates who used it this year.

Once again the standard of craft skills is improving, with some centres producing work of a very high standard in the following areas:

1. Marking out
2. Turning
3. Threading
4. Folding and Forming

A small number of centres are still experiencing difficulty in Thermal Joining Techniques, more specifically welding. There is evidence in some cases of poor continuity of run and of “spatter”. Centres should try to ensure candidates have had adequate practice before attempting final weld.

In most cases candidates are producing a good to very good finish to their project. All, however, should be encouraged to ensure a good finish to individual parts as in a few cases there is evidence of vice jaw marks and lack of deburring.

The vast majority of centres are not allowing candidates to apply a paint finish to their project nor to grind welds until after verification. All centres are to be commended for this as it allows visiting verifier to assess the quality of thermal joints.

Practical Electronics

Verification of this component is carried out by visual inspection of circuitry components and soldering joints with continuity check.

Delivery in S3/S4

There has been a large increase in the number of candidates who are being presented in S3/S4. Although it has been previously recognized that this creates new management problems within the classroom, due to differing levels of maturity, centres are adapting well to this challenge and ensuring that the needs of the candidate and the requirements of SQA are being met.