

Higher National Qualifications

And

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Senior Verifier Report

2008

Subject: **181 - Heating and Ventilating (SVQ)**
 181 - Building Engineering Services (HNC)
 191 - Refrigeration & Air Conditioning (SVQ)

Sector Panel or SSC: **Summitskills**

Date: **15th September 2008**

HIGHER NATIONAL UNITS

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

*Insert details relating to specific guidance which should be offered to centres based on the moderation of centres.
Include:*

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

SVQ AWARDS

TITLES/LEVELS OF SVQ AWARDS MODERATED

Insert details below

181 Heating and Ventilating Installation - Mechanical Engineering Services;

G7AC/22 Level 2 - (Domestic)

G7AD/23 Level 3 - (Domestic)

G7AF/22 Level 2 - (Industrial & Commercial)

G7A9/23 Level 3 - (Industrial & Commercial)

G7AA/22 Level 2 - (Maintenance of System Components)

G7A8/23 Level 3 - (Rectification of Systems)

191 Refrigeration and Air Conditioning

G7C1/22 Level 2 - Small Commercial Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Systems

G7CO/23 Level 3 - Commercial & Industrial Refrigeration Systems (Non-Ammonia)

G7AW/23 Level 3 - Commercial and Industrial Air Conditioning Systems

G7AV/23 Level 3 - Refrigeration Systems (Ammonia) - Please Note; whilst this qualification is still generally available, there have been no candidates registered for the award this year, and it is extremely unlikely that any further candidates will be registered in future.

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

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General comments:

Heating and Ventilating Centres (H & V) - SVQ Awards 181;

All of the centres were visited in 2008

Two of the centres identified above are performing very well against the requirements of the standards, the assessment strategies and SVQ criteria. Internal Verification was robust, up to date and auditable.

In both of these centres new resources were planned, with these to be in place for the forthcoming (2008 / 09) academic year. In one case an entirely new provision, with significant space provision at both ground and high level, is nearing completion (Oct 08). In the other, an entirely new provision in 2006, is to be restructured and space allocations revised to reflect the needs of the Heating and Ventilating section of the centre. This also the case with the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning awards mentioned later in the report.

Unfortunately, in the third centre, due to a staff resignation and other domestic issues, the centre has encountered some difficulties during the year. These matters have and are being addressed and a better year is anticipated in 2008 / 09.

Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) Centres - SVQ Awards 191;

All centres were visited in 2008

Generally, the external verifier reports refer a favorable provision at two of the centres. And whilst there are some concerns with the third centre, following his advice and guidance and an agreed course of action was agreed and improvement is anticipated for the new academic session.

Each of the centres are able to apply for certification of successful candidates in this area.

As in the case of H & V, the RAC resource provision is to be extended in 2008 / 09 with a most significant development at the North Glasgow centre and a refurbishment of space resource at Edinburgh.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Performance Evidence;

As identified in the previous report, too great a proportion of performance evidence is based on the use of 'simulation' and 'realistic work environment' projects and assignments conducted in the centre. Evidence of performance towards the SVQ is in many cases readily available from 'naturally occurring evidence' created in the candidates' workplace. This is an invaluable source of evidence that centres should / must take avail of.

Evidence gathering opportunities in the workplace occur on a day to day basis. Assessment of candidate reports ('write-ups) supported by sound witness testimony and related oral or written questions can and should be the source for much of the evidence gathered.

In respect to performance assessment conducted in 'realistic work environments' (ie – simulation) there is no doubt that the centres visited have enhanced the 'realism' to a level that affords the candidate an experience close to the work environment that they may encounter in the workplace. The centres are to be commended for these developments

Knowledge Evidence;

In the course of 2008 – 09, SQA is set to introduce common knowledge assessment papers for both the H & V and the RAC awards. These knowledge assessments are based on multiple choice papers (40 Q's per paper) covering the four disciplines of the H & V awards (Domestic, Industrial and Commercial, Service and Maintenance and Ductwork), as well as RAC, relate directly and are referenced to the qualification specification.

Papers will be available for Level 2 awards early in the academic year. Level 3 papers will be available early in 2009. The papers are designed to cover extensive areas of the knowledge and understanding specification of the SVQ awards.

It should be noted however, that the introduction of these papers is not to replace the ongoing need for continuing the questioning process related to the knowledge and understanding of performance related activities and tasks. Ongoing questioning, oral questioning in particular, will continue to be an important source evidence related to the candidates performance both in the workplace and in 'real work' tasks, simulated in the centre.

Other forms of questioning, v/v projects, assignments and traditional written questions will continue to form the basis of supplementary evidence sources when required.

Internal Verification;

Internal Verification is the area which has seen a marked level in improvement in two of the three centres offering these awards, over the past twelve months. Unfortunately, one centre found significant difficulty in maintaining the level of their I.V. practice and this has contributed to a noticeable deterioration in the quality of overall provision within the centre.

Internal verification is the hub of the quality assurance process of qualifications delivery and needs to be maintained at the highest level.

NATIONAL UNITS

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

TITLES/LEVELS OF NATIONAL UNITS MODERATED

Insert details below

N / A

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

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Include:

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

N/A

General comments:

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:
