



Higher National Qualifications

And

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Internal Assessment Report

2008

Subject: Construction (Plant & Ops) 186

Sector Panel or SSC: Construction Skills

Date: 12th 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.

SVQ AWARDS

TITLES/LEVELS OF SVQ AWARDS VERIFIED

Insert details below

Construction Plant Maintenance – G7CA-22 & G7CC-23

Construction Plant Operations – G898-22

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:

Plant Maintenance:

There has been no increase in the number of centres offering the awards; the 3 centres were all verified during this reporting period with no holds being recommended. All centres received very positive reports.

The candidates tend to be young apprentices who come from a wide geographical area which means that some of them have to be accommodated during the college block periods. This environment continues to put an added burden on to them. However, they still show great resolve which is evidenced by the fact that the retention rate of the candidates remains high with the majority of candidates who achieve level 2 progressing on to the level 3 award.

The 3 colleges continue to be very inventive in the way they supply and ensure their candidates have access to the wide range of plant and machinery, consumables, testing equipment/rigs that are required to ensure that the candidates can cover those areas of the award that some of them cannot complete within their everyday work place due to the nature of the business their employers cover.

Advice on good practice:

The verification visits highlighted several areas of good practice that should be shared:

- Robust and user friendly internal verification procedures are an excellent tool in ensuring high quality assessments
- Regular team meetings provide an excellent forum for sharing thoughts and ensuring standardisation is maintained
- Compilation, content and storage of portfolios
- Centre commitment to CPD

Advice for further development:

- Work based observation reports should be included in portfolios
- Candidate withdrawals should be checked regularly to ensure centre registrations are accurate

General comments:

Plant Operations

Eighteen centres were verified during the reporting period with 1 hold being recommended. The reports in general were very positive and confirmed for the most part that the centres are delivering a very good product aligned to industry needs.

Three centres received development visits which have resulted in the possibility of two further centres offering the award in the next reporting period.

The main driving force within the industry for certification continues to be the requirement of a Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) Card in order for plant operators to gain access to major construction sites.

The CPCS Scheme has recently been updated, the main change being the introduction of the CPCS Technical Test, the introduction of this test negates the requirement of an operator requiring the Scottish Progression Award (G7GT-04) in order to gain a CPCS Red Trained Operator Card. The requirement for the level 2 SVQ in Plant Operations still remains in place for a candidate to get the Blue Competence Card.

The quality of the work being produced in most cases was to a high standard and in some cases to a very high standard.

Advice on good practice:

The verification visits highlighted several areas of good practice that should be shared:

- Robust and user friendly internal verification procedures are an excellent tool in ensuring high quality assessments
- The use of a candidate induction handbook is an excellent and informative resource for candidates
- The standard of work based evidence is generally very good
- Regular team meetings provide an excellent forum for sharing thoughts and ensuring standardisation is maintained
- Compilation, content and storage of portfolios
- Centre commitment to CPD

Advice for further development:

- Centres should endeavour to meet the requirements of visit plans in relation to ensuring live assessments are made available for observation during visits
- Accurate candidate lists should be submitted as requested prior to verification visits
- Candidate withdrawals should be checked regularly to ensure centre registrations are accurate
- Detailed candidate feedback