

**Higher National Qualifications,
Scottish Vocational Qualifications
And
Scottish Progression Award
Senior Moderator Report
2006**

Subjects:

- **Brickwork (171)**
- **Construction & Civil Engineering Services (352)**
- **Wall & Floor Tiling (175)**

Sector Panel or SSC: Construction

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

HIGHER NATIONAL UNITS

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

There was very little moderation activity in the Brickwork Higher National Units last session. This presumably was because of low uptake in these awards. Informal feedback from several centres indicates that there should be an increase in candidate registrations for these awards in session 2006 – 2007.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

It is anticipated that these Units will be coming up soon for review. Centres and industry should be encouraged to feedback on the content of the current units in the brickwork award prior to any review taking place.

SVQ AWARDS

TITLES/LEVELS OF SVQ AWARDS MODERATED

- Brickwork at levels 2 & 3.
- Wall & Floor Tiling SVQ at levels 2 & 3
- Construction & Civil Engineering (352) at levels 1 & 2.

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

Brickwork
Wall & Floor Tiling

The introduction of the SVQ being delivered with the use of the centrally devised Training and Assessment Programme (TAP) is proving to be a major success in Quality Assurance terms. Staff and candidates are, in the main, being very positive about the implementation of this National Programme. In this, its first year of full implementation, there is an abundance of evidence to confirm that the programme is contributing to a quality assured training experience for the modern apprentices in construction crafts.

Areas of good practice

Moderation visits confirmed an abundance of this including;

- High standards of skills being demonstrated by candidates
- Industrial standards of mandatory site PPE is now being implemented across all colleges
- Clear ongoing feedback is being recorded for candidates benefit, reflection and progress
- Work evidence reports being available for moderators signing
- Excellent candidate portfolios being developed
- Constructive working relationships between candidates and assessors
- Excellent secondary evidence (e.g. Photographs with candidate and information pro-forma) is being presented in folios for evidence of skills where the work has been dismantled or removed

Areas for further development

- Some resource issues have emerged regarding the purchase of the construction materials required to meet the modern site industrial practices as implemented by the TAP.
- Robust internal verification systems require to be fully implemented at shop floor level in order to ensure the Quality Assurance requirements for the craft skills of the SVQ award.
- Some aspects of the SVQ level 3 knowledge based assessments require a sharp IV focus. There was some evidence of candidates' work being marked consistently too high in year 2 of the TAP.
- Candidates require to have good quality working materials to use (e.g. new clay facing bricks) in order for them to be able to fully develop and demonstrate their craft skills.
- The generic units require to be consolidated and integrated with the delivery of the TAP using "natural occurrences" as often as possible. All of this requires to be clearly tracked and recorded.
- The assessment of the candidate's related knowledge and skills for each unit should take place in tandem with each other as recommended in the introduction to the TAP.
- Work evidence reports require to be available for moderator's perusal and signing.
- Units which have a strong H&S emphasis - e. g. Erecting Working Platforms - should be subjected to a high profile internal verification focus.
- Centres require to be made aware of SQA guidance on the retention of evidence for SVQ practical work and their own Quality Assurance responsibilities in this regard.
- The rules and guidance when using oral remediation methods for knowledge evidence require to be fully understood and implemented by assessors and internal verifiers.

O.S.A.T. in construction.

This continues to be one of the most challenging issues for SQA in terms of the Quality Assurance of SVQ construction awards being delivered in the workplace on construction sites. Much progress continues to be made, but some of the issues identified have still to be fully addressed. The external verification of construction OSAT qualifications requires to be continued to be given a high profile during this forthcoming session.

OSAT centres could derive great benefit from a variety of SQA initiatives currently actively being considered including, support/development visits, Quality Network events, assessment support materials centrally produced by SQA, and focused external verification visits by moderator teams over several days.

NATIONAL UNITS

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

TITLES/LEVELS OF NATIONAL UNITS MODERATED

Scottish Progression Award (SPA) Building Crafts Intermediate 1

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments

The SPA in Building Crafts is now well established in construction centres as the preferred pre-vocational route for many of those seeking a modern apprenticeship in the building industry.

There is clear evidence that many candidates are succeeding in gaining these apprenticeships after attending courses in the SPA award. Early feedback is also indicating that these candidates are being very successful in the full SVQ modern apprenticeship programmes, and are “hitting the ground running” on the commencement of their SVQ programmes.

The external moderation pilot model introduced for the SPA, which uses two craft specialist moderators to cover all of the trade crafts in the full award being delivered by the centres, continues to be efficient in cost effective and quality assurance terms.

Areas of good practice

- Centres are presenting evidence of candidates’ performance which meets SQA requirements in quality assurance terms with adequate evidence of candidates’ practical work available for verification.
- All centres are using the assessment material produced by SQA.
- In general, assessment decisions are accurate and consistent across centres.
- Where possible centres are allowing SPA candidates to observe, and work alongside, mature SVQ modern apprentice candidates who are demonstrating the industrial skills and disciplines required.
- Good ongoing feedback is being given to candidates at many centres and this is being recorded.
- An excellent standard of craft practical work is being presented by many centres very often exceeding the prescribed minimum standards required for achievement.
- Candidate portfolios are often well organised.
- Some centres are affording candidates the opportunity to put into practice the skills gained during training by getting them involved in project work.
- Health & Safety including the wearing of PPE is being implemented across most centres.

Areas for further development

- To ensure standardisation across centres of the use of the assessment materials being used.
- Internal verifiers should be available at some point during moderation visits for discussion and feedback.
- Clear assessor feedback, which is recorded, is to be given to candidates on an ongoing basis.
- Positive assessor feedback to be emphasized as much as possible to candidates.
- Candidates' scripts and checklist require always to be signed off by assessors/internal verifiers.
- Health & Safety including the wearing of appropriate PPE to be established as standard practice.