



Higher National Qualifications

And

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Senior Moderator Report

2006

Subject: HAUC Awards

Sector Panel or SSC: HAUC Awards UK, Department for Transport

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.

NATIONAL UNITS

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

TITLES/LEVELS OF NATIONAL UNITS MODERATED

HAUC AWARDS, EXCAVATION AND REINSTATEMENT OF ROADS, PDA UNLEVELLED

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

Centres have adapted well to all the changes required for the replacement HAUC awards. These awards are highly prescribed in all their aspects and, as such, uniformity of approach and standards of outcomes are almost guaranteed nationally, across centres and awarding bodies. However, what is not always fully appreciated is the need for centres to comply with every single aspect of the prescribed award's requirements and this they do very well by adopting a highly professional and disciplined approach.

Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Areas of good practice:

- Centres are making good sound assessment decisions, indicating that a high satisfaction rate of Award and Sector panel requirements are being met.
- Centres make good use of on site assessment events wherever possible to gain the right blend, balance and mix of assessment opportunities made.
- By far, the greater percentages of centre staff are highly motivated, dedicated, occupationally competent and very well managed, where SQA can have a high degree of confidence in the assessment decisions made by these centres.
- It is increasingly common for centres and candidates to be making quite complex, site specific and well-constructed risk assessments for both portfolio evidence and actual work requirements.
- Centres maintain a good ratio of assessor to candidate numbers and likewise a good internal verifier provision to assessor availability.
- Centres understand the concept of CPD very well and make adequate provision and support for internal and associate staff members.

Areas for further development

- Centres need to adopt more rigorous material density, compaction plant rating and volume calculations for operative and supervisor candidate alike. There has been a bit of candidate reticence to fully take on board the challenges of this aspect of the award requirements, as traditionally it's been seen as the engineer's job. Perhaps being overly appreciative of the previous, assessors have not been as challenging as they could have been with calculations, in some cases going no further than rates of spread and as such achieving only a minimal level of assessment evidence. However, the replacement awards and associated assessment instruments require candidates to have meaningful calculation skills knowledge and understanding and as such this is an area to be focused on.
- Centres need to keep up to date with any codes, specifications or legislative changes made to HAUC awards area and as such review the systems, methods and contact they use for this purpose.
- The inclusion of chalk as a backfill material in the specification and award structure requires centres to obtain samples for training, familiarisation and assessment purpose.

- Centres need to be more aware of the far too often use of the word “tar” when both assessor, candidate and the wider community orally, or in writing, are in fact referring to bitumen. There are specific health and safety considerations associated with tar and the difference between tar and bitumen needs to be better understood by all.