



**National Qualifications 2011  
Internal Assessment Report  
Product Design**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

# National Qualifications (NQ) Units

(ie freestanding Units which contribute to NPAs or NCs etc.)

## Titles/levels of NQ Units verified

DF4V: Design Analysis — Intermediate 2 and Higher

DF4W: Developing Design Proposal — Intermediate 2 and Higher

## General comments

In total, 55 centres were verified. Sixteen centres were visited in January, 11 were Accepted. Thirty-nine centres were verified at the central event in April, 31 were Accepted. All centres were Accepted after resubmission.

There was a clear improvement in the quality of assessment decisions made by centres this year, with a large majority of centres submitting clear evidence and correctly applying the standards.

Administrative errors in evidence accounted for approximately half of the 'Not Accepted' decisions. Errors included:

- ◆ submission of evidence for wrong Unit
- ◆ no evidence for one of the Outcomes
- ◆ no assessment decisions submitted
- ◆ NAB marking guidelines not followed

All of these errors could have been avoided by a more robust internal verification process within centres.

A number of centres did not include the Candidate Progress Sheet or supply any detail of where marks had been awarded. This made provision of detailed feedback very difficult.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The vast majority of centres are familiar with all of the material issued by SQA and follow the correct procedures for generating and submitting evidence.

## Evidence Requirements

There was a clear improvement in the understanding of Evidence Requirements. This was particularly true in centres which had applied internal verification procedures.

## Areas of good practice/areas for improvement

A number of centres have developed candidate feedback sheets for both of the Units verified. These sheets not only aid candidates but also help clarify where the centre has awarded marks.

A number of centres have clear internal verification systems and include detail of them in their submission. Again, this helps clarify where the centre has awarded marks.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

A small number of centres are not applying the national standard and are awarding inappropriate marks. This is particularly true in DF4V: Design Analysis, where marks are still being awarded for inappropriate 'justification' in both Outcomes.

It should be noted that computer modelling on its own cannot generate enough marks to reach the cut-offs for Outcome 3 of DF4W: Developing Design Proposals.

Centres should be aware of the new NAB for DF4V: Design Analysis, issued in March 2011. This NAB reduces the assessment burden for this Unit.