



National Qualifications 2013 Internal Assessment Report Brickwork

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

National Qualifications (NQ) Awards

Titles/levels of NQ Awards verified:

PDA Bricklaying SCQF level 6

General comments

Centres continue to deliver the PDA effectively with all staff having a clear understanding of the Unit requirements and national standards.

The External Verifier report commented on the quality of candidate practical brickwork evidence on display, stating that the standard was reasonable in relation to the stage candidates had reached in their training. The report also confirmed that the centre staff and candidates had a firm understanding of the required standards and tolerances for this qualification.

Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Centres had a clear understanding of the requirements of specialist Bricklaying PDA Unit specifications and their TAPs. External Verifiers reported that limited awareness of generic Unit requirements impacted on effective integration of specialist and generic Units.

However, centre staffs' clear understanding and familiarity with the Unit specifications ensured that the very late withdrawal of the new TAPs and PDA Units in favour of the old ones had little impact on the candidate assessment experience.

Evidence Requirements

Externally Verifier reports noted there was a well-established clear and unequivocal understanding of the Evidence Requirements for almost all specialist Bricklaying Units and this was evident from the positive comments and items of good practice highlighted by External Verifiers.

Reports also recorded discussions with centre staff focused on the Evidence Requirements of the new Construction Craft Competence Assessment (Phase Tests) and the Construction Craft Employment Skills (CREWs) Units.

The External Verifier verification meetings of October and December 2012 had directed External Verifiers to support centre staff with the introduction of these additional industry-specific generic Units. This was clearly a major strength of the external verification process last session.

Administration of assessments

External Verifier reporting highlighted that assessment planning and administration of the assessment process was effective.

External Verifier reporting also highlighted formative and summative assessment feedback as constructive, clear and concise.

Verifier reports noted internal verification as being robust in terms of confirming assessment decisions, but also supportive in terms of assessor feedback.

Centres continue to encourage candidates to access assessment opportunities at their own pace and this is supported by the effective use of TAPs formative assessments (Tasks) which candidates see as a major strength.

Areas of good practice

The following good practice was observed and reported during the visit:

- ◆ Candidates engaged in directed learning in the workshop
- ◆ Peer assessment of NOS prior to assessor judgement
- ◆ Innovative practice observed surrounding teaching and learning process
- ◆ Candidates using a VLE for underpinning knowledge development

Specific areas for improvement

No development points were noted; however, reporting noted that the introduction of the new PDA and its updated TAPs would address any centre issue identified during this session.