

# NQ Verification 2014–15

## Key Messages Round 3

01

### Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Practical Craft Skills
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting verification
Date published:	June 2015

#### National Courses/Units verified:

H25Y 74 Making a Finished Product from Wood (National 4) Added Value Unit  
H25T 74 Making a Finished Product from Metal (National 4) Added Value Unit  
C761 75 Practical Metalworking (National 5) Course practical activity  
C762 75 Practical Woodworking (National 5) Course practical activity

02

### Section 2: Comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

The National 5 Course practical activity and the National 4 Added Value Unit assessment demonstrate that the Course is more than simply the sum of its constituent Units and centres must make use of the SQA-provided assessments (without alteration) for this purpose.

The instruments of assessment on the secure area of SQA's website will remain in place for the foreseeable future and there is also the intention to add to these.

Whilst part of the Course practical activity is for the candidate to determine which materials should be used, it should be noted that manufactured board (in the case of Practical Woodworking) is not appropriate for anything other than the drawer base, box lid and base, and the back of the mirror — elsewhere natural timber should be used so that the task remains suitably challenging.

Capping of wood has been highlighted as an issue for some centres. An approach by some centres is to laminate the wood to prevent capping. This then supports the candidates in additional skills and the manufacture of the project to a high standard.

Each Course practical activity presents opportunities for the candidates to personalise their models. In the Practical Woodworking Course, some centres have provided the candidates with templates to use for the turnery — this has proved to be a successful approach with the candidates gaining more time for practical work. Another approach that we have seen is where centres have given candidates the opportunity to produce their own template — this has been a good approach and it ensures this part of the Course meets the national standards. In every situation, a template **must be** present for assessment/verification; if no template is present then no marks can be awarded in this area.

The candidate diary is a very important assessment tool. In some centres, candidates are completing this with plenty of detail and this supports both assessment and verification. However, where there is insufficient detail, it may be difficult to award marks. Additionally, candidates have found the diary supportive at interviews for jobs and colleges (many FE courses require personal reflections/diaries to be completed and this piece of work is an ideal preparation for candidates who progress down this route).

In general, centres have provided appropriate evidence for verification and we have also found excellent examples of the application of internal verification processes.

## **Assessment judgements**

Across both Courses (at National 4 and National 5), the majority of centres are making fair and accurate assessment judgements. Centres seem to have a firm grasp of the assessment materials and tend to be accurate in terms of the National 4 pass/fail judgement and the National 5 mark judgements.

The quality of 'Reading from working drawings, marking out, cutting and shaping component parts appropriately using correct tools and equipment' was to a high standard. However, we remind centres that only tools as detailed in the Course documents are to be used — for example, in Practical Woodworking we make no reference to the use of the 'band saw' and, as such, it is invalid for use in the Course and no marks can be allocated if one has been used.

Where a candidate has not completed the National 5 Course practical activity, we have provided specific marking guidance to enable assessors to fairly and consistently reflect the work that the candidate has done — this can be found in the 'commonly asked questions' section of the subject web page.

All Course practical activities require a finish on the models. Within both Practical Woodworking and Practical Metalworking, centres have once again been applying a wide variety and standards of finishes. This year has identified more centres using a sand and sealer finish rather than varnish in wood. The metal projects have been finished with a clear lacquer or have been blued.

Detail of what should be considered when assessing this section is given in the assessment documentation, but centres must instruct candidates not to apply a finish that obscures the rest of their work.

## Section 3: General comments

Whilst verification is a quality assurance process, it is also a supportive process and our visits allow us to discuss, face to face, any assessment issues that a centre may have. Our verification activity is now undertaken by nominees who have a dual role; as well undertaking verification work for SQA they are a point of technical expertise within their local authorities. If you have any assessment-related queries, please make use of this resource where it is available.