



Internal Assessment Report 2010: Plumbing (177)

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

SVQ Awards

Titles/levels of SVQ Awards verified

Plumbing 2/3 (Level 3)

Plumbing (177)

General comments

Seven plumbing External Verifiers visited 18 centres in the 2009/2010 session. (One of these visits was a double bank visit with a member of the QAV team.)

External Verifiers have indicated on their reports that all centres have a clear understanding of SummitSkills' Assessment Strategy.

Two centres have minor problems complying with the assessment strategy. These will need to be resolved during the coming session.

All Assessors in centres are using the current version of SQA Plumbing training and assessment programmes (TAPs).

All required evidence has been presented to EVs during visits.

Centres use assessments from the current TAPs package. This includes guidance on marking for the Assessor.

Most centres have an effective internal verification procedure which is reviewed periodically. IVs obtain information from these procedures for the number of Units and candidates to be sampled.

The standard of feedback to the candidates varies from acceptable to very good.

All candidates interviewed had a positive attitude, saying that the work in college was relevant to their work on site and that Assessors had been very supportive. Two candidates felt that there was too much lead work in the Course, lead work being installed by specialist contractors.

In all cases, EVs found that centre policies and procedures were in place to ensure that all candidates had fair access to assessment.

Areas of good practice

All centres are congratulated on performing well this session, with no problems with assessment decisions.

One centre's staff have weekly meetings where they check that internal verification and assessment records comply with standards. All the centre's staff for this area attend.

One centre has introduced focus group meetings, which encourage staff. This allowed students to take part in structured meetings with staff members and allows the learner to feel an affinity with the Course and staff. Evidence of minutes of meetings was available; students had not only given some positive feedback to the staff, but also constructive information relating to the programme. This had been taken onboard by the curriculum manager and is being implemented and monitored this session, with so far positive feedback from staff and students.

Many centres are now using VLEs to facilitate learning.

In Unit 9, Sheet Lead, candidate discussions highlighted that centre staff, whilst complying with assessment criteria, asked students to identify potential faults within the equipment requiring assembly and testing. This method of assessment delivery ensured that candidates weren't merely assembling the oxy/act equipment presented but had to inspect each component part and evaluate its suitability and condition prior to connection. This ensured an understanding of the safety implications of not carrying out pre-user checks on dangerous workplace equipment.

One centre has used a practical log book detailing the stages of work for each candidate's practical exercises. This log book allows the candidates to reflect on their performance and how they can raise the standard of work produced, while paying particular attention to health and safety issues.

Areas for improvement

- ◆ The collection and archiving of employers' workplace declarations.
- ◆ Recording of Assessors' and Internal Verifiers' qualifications.