



**Scottish Vocational Qualifications  
Internal Assessment Report 2015  
Stonemasonry**

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

# SVQ awards

## General comments

External verification reports confirmed that all centres visited have a clear and accurate understanding of the National Occupational Standards requirements within the SVQ in Stonemasonry. SQA Unit requirements and the demands of the associated Training and Assessment Programme (TAP), which supports the delivery of this SVQ, were also clearly understood by staff.

Centres had a clear understanding of how the information obtained from Candidate Records of Evidence from the Workplace (CREWs) and evidence from Phase Tests supported the ongoing development of practical skills and behavioural competences in line with the National Occupational Standards.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Staff at all centres sampled have a thorough knowledge of the Unit specifications and the requirements of the TAP assessments which support the delivery of the SVQ in Stonemasonry.

The requirements of industry-devised Units H109 12 Construction Craft Competence Assessment and H10A 12 Construction Crafts Employability Skills are being delivered effectively by staff at all centres.

At all centres sampled, supportive internal verification activity ensured that all evidence requirements were being met consistently and effectively by assessors.

## Evidence Requirements

All centres visited had a detailed understanding of the evidence requirements of the SVQ Stonemasonry Units and their supporting TAPs. This included evidence confirming that Unit H10A12 Construction Craft Competence Assessment was being delivered effectively with candidates focusing on industry-required standards to underpin progression.

Similarly, there was ample evidence from the workplace available at all centres to support the industry requirement for Unit H10A 12 Construction Crafts Employability Skills.

Candidate work conformed to all SQA criteria and all centres fully met the evidence requirements of the Units and TAPs.

One external verification report noted that standardisation meetings involving assessors and internal verifiers were not being recorded.

## **Administration of assessments**

External verification reports confirmed that assessments are being administered effectively and professionally at all centres and that assessment record keeping and retention of evidence is systematic, with all assessment records and evidence being readily available for EVs. At a few centres, assessment records and candidate evidence was available in paper and in electronic format.

However, at one centre candidate knowledge and practical assessment records were not always signed and dated by the assessor, the candidate and, where appropriate, the internal verifier to meet the evidence requirements of Units and the Construction Industry Assessment Methodology.

The need to show workings for calculation questions and provide neat and proportional sketches in the second year programme was reported at one centre.

One external verification report identified the need for Airstream helmets for the students to better protect them from the hazards of potentially dangerous stone dust.

There was clear evidence of cognitive progression through experiential learning.

## **General feedback**

Candidate feedback to the External Verifier was very positive and candidates clearly valued the developmental feedback received from assessors.

Similarly, candidates confirmed that relationships with the staff were very good and that teaching packages, including interactive learning, helped them complete their studies successfully at most centres.

Internal verifier feedback to assessors continues to be supportive and developmental.

Very effective dissemination of the outcome of external quality assurance activity was reported at one centre, with the report noting that recommendations and good practice were discussed and records of addressing recommendations were clearly recorded.

## **Areas of good practice**

- ◆ Comprehensive record keeping was reported at more than a few centres
- ◆ Assessment records and candidate evidence was available in paper and in electronic format at a few centres
- ◆ Very effective dissemination of the outcome of external quality assurance activity was reported at one centre, with the report noting that recommendations and good practice were discussed and records of addressing recommendations were clearly recorded
- ◆ Planned candidate induction identifying development and support needs was reported at one centre

### **Specific areas for improvement**

- ◆ Knowledge and practical assessment records were not always signed and dated by the assessor, the candidate and, where appropriate, the internal verifier to meet the evidence requirements of Units and the Construction Industry Assessment Methodology
- ◆ The need to show working for calculation questions and provide neat and proportional sketches in the second year programme
- ◆ Provision and use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- ◆ Keeping records of standardisation meetings