



**Internal Assessment Report 2013  
Scottish Vocational Qualifications  
Wall and Floor Tiling**

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

# SVQ awards

## General comments

Almost all centres have a well-established understanding of the requirements of the national standards as defined by the Standard Setting Council (SSC) — Construction Skills/CITB. Almost all External Verifiers commented on the high quality of candidates' practical tiling evidence on display at centres which is the real measure of candidates consistently reaching and exceeding National Occupational Standards (NOS).

The SQA-developed Training and Assessment Programmes (TAPs) are well-defined in terms of assessing candidates' ability to progress towards national standards.

Some centres were commended by the External Verifiers for meeting and sometimes exceeding industry standards and maintaining a high quality of candidate practical work in light of the late withdrawal of the new TAPs in October 2012 and the change back to the old TAPs.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Almost all centres had a clear understanding of the requirements of the Wall and Floor Tiling Unit specifications and their TAPs. External Verifiers reported that at one centre, prior familiarisation with generic Unit requirements impacted on the effective integration of specialist and generic Units.

However at almost all centres, staff understanding and familiarisation with the Unit specifications ensured that the very late withdrawal of the new TAPs and Professional Development Award (PDA) Units in favour of the old ones had little impact on the candidate assessment experience.

## Evidence Requirements

Almost all centres externally verified had a well-established and clear understanding of the Evidence Requirements for almost all Wall and Floor Tiling Units and this was evident from the positive comments and items of good practice highlighted by External Verifiers.

However one centre did not meet the Evidence Requirements of the assessment strategy in relation to physical workshop conditions reflecting current industry practice. This was in relation to the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the use of 110 voltage for power tools.

Most External Verifier reports 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 in 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 Verifiers reported that assessment planning and administration of the assessment process was effective at almost all centres verified.

In most centres, External Verifiers highlighted constructive and developmental feedback, assessment administration, and recording sheets as being particularly effective.

Almost all 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.

### **General feedback**

In the majority of centres verified, External Verifiers reported that the quality of candidates' practical work was of a good standard in relation to the candidates' practical experience and the stage they had reached in their apprenticeship.

Feedback given to candidates was effective in almost all centres verified and this was recorded in the candidate TAP record to enable candidates to focus on areas for development both in industry and at the centre.

However at one centre, development points were noted by the External Verifier concerning the integration and recording of generic Unit competences.

Almost all centres continued to develop their learning environments and the resources used by the candidates to enhance the learning experience.

### **Areas of good practice**

Almost all of the external verification reports for session 2012–2013 highlighted and reported areas of good practice in the delivery of the Wall and Floor Tiling SVQ. Much of this good practice was evident at almost all centres, specifically:

- ◆ robust internal verification practice
- ◆ effective assessment feedback to candidates at formative and summative assessments to support candidate progress
- ◆ evidence of a good range of resources including tools and materials
- ◆ good staff/candidate relationships
- ◆ high quality of practical workshop evidence
- ◆ compliance with the sector skills council's assessment strategy

Individual centres had good practice highlighted, specifically:

- ◆ excellent support offered to candidates by centre staff
- ◆ use of Microsoft tablets in workshops for recording assessment feedback directly into electronic candidate portfolios
- ◆ use of video to record candidate feedback which is then saved on the candidate space on the centre virtual learning environment (VLE) and can be accessed remotely using mobile phones. This allows candidates to review feedback whilst working in industry thus enhancing their skills development

### **Specific areas for improvement**

Individual centres had improvement and enhancement items reported for the following aspects of assessment:

- ◆ candidate feedback from knowledge assessments
- ◆ ensuring that assessment and training facilities comply with the assessment strategy and assessment methodology by ensuring that workshop physical conditions reflect industry standards and requirements for:
  - electrical supply to wall and floor tiling machinery
  - supply and use of PPE by candidates
  - provision of health and safety notices