



Higher National Qualifications

And

Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Senior Verifier Report

2007

Subject: Highways Maintenance SVQ Level 2

Sector Panel or SSC: Construction Skills

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification which has taken place within Higher National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications in this subject.

SVQ AWARDS

TITLES/LEVELS OF SVQ AWARDS VERIFIED

Highway Maintenance Level 2

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

Within the moderation group “Highways Maintenance” there is also present the qualification “Road-building” and the stand-alone unit “Winter Maintenance”.

As a result of the Highways Maintenance awards being reviewed and the Road-building awards being introduced last year we have the situation where many of the centres are still progressing candidates in the outgoing awards that are in their lapsing period, (ending July 2008), and at the same time, progressing candidates in the replacement awards with differing unit format and award structure. Reports indicate that centres are managing the present situation well.

Areas of good practice:

Centres have made a great effort to understand the new style of unit format and associated awards structures. They have been aided by the provision of SQA “Assessor’s Guidelines” and “Candidates Guidance and Portfolios” documents and other like initiatives.

Many centres have taken the opportunity to request and pay for development visits, so that they can fuller understand and put in place assessment strategies and devices to meet the requirements of the replacement awards.

EV reports indicate that centres are diligent in their progressing of candidates.

Roads authority centres are appreciative of the continued provision of a “Winter Maintenance” unit.

EV reports indicate that specialist award areas within the Road-building provision are receiving first class EV attention by highly occupationally experienced members of the team.

EV reports indicate that centres are responding well to development points being imposed upon them, to put in place any final amendments to present working practices, assessment devices, strategies, teaching and learning initiatives as necessary for the replacement awards.

Areas for further development:

The occupational and contextual differences between the similarly titled and numbered units, and award structure between the Construction Moderation group and this Highways Maintenance Moderation group, are now much better understood. However, great care at centres/group allocation still has to be taken to avoid misunderstanding and incorrect reporting issues.

Evidence indicates that there is a need to allocate Road-building a separate group award number, as verification administration errors/misunderstanding are still occurring.

It is gratifying to note that “the minimal extent of range coverage” which is endemic in the new awards units that could be exploited for minimal compliance is being ignored by centres on grounds of maintaining occupational award excellence and quality.