



**National Qualifications 2013  
Internal Assessment Report**

**Skills for Work: Engineering Skills**

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

# National Qualifications (NQ) Awards

Titles/levels of NQ Awards verified:

SfW: Engineering Skills (Intermediate 1 and 2)

## General comments

Of the five centres selected for a verification visit, two were offering the Intermediate 1 award, two were offering the Intermediate 2 award, and one was offering both.

Some of the centres were offering awards for the first time but staff, in all cases, had a clear and accurate understanding of the national standards — gained either from offering this award previously or other SQA awards.

Where mentioned in the External Verifier reports, the vast majority of candidates undertaking the Intermediate 1 qualification were male and in most cases were from S3/S4. Centres offering the Intermediate 2 qualification had mainly selected candidates from S5/S6.

## Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

External Verifiers did not report any issues regarding any of the SQA documentation.

Centres were recommended to use the SfW support provision to clarify any issues with the documentation and/or materials. An e-forum had been set up specifically by SQA for this qualification to share ideas and practices across participating centres.

All visits to centres were successful.

## Evidence Requirements

All centres were using the SQA-produced National Assessment Bank materials for assessing candidates. These specify the Evidence Requirements. Centres were interpreting the requirements of the Evidence Requirements correctly.

Most centres were also using the support materials from Colleges Scotland to prepare candidates for both written and practical assessment. In many cases this was supported by centre-devised material.

## **Administration of assessments**

Most centres displayed robust internal verification procedures.

Most centres had adopted the correct award for the candidate group. It was noted by the External Verifier in one centre that a very large candidate group was undertaking the award and that this could raise workshop health and safety issues. The External Verifier advised the centre to consider reducing class numbers.

Some centres are in the process of producing NABs to suit local conditions. They were advised that after carrying out internal verification on the assessments they could use SQA's prior verification service to ensure the assessments comply with the Evidence Requirements in the Unit specification.

## **Areas of good practice**

The approach of Highland Regional Council to develop a regional internal verification policy by their SfW Co-ordinator to be used in all their schools is proving to be a very effective system that benefits assessors, candidates and verifiers.

External Verifiers commented on the quality of candidate practical work being generally to a high standard.

Centres had greatly improved the assessor feedback to candidates in Employability Skills.

One centre was praised for providing a good technology-based learning environment.

Most centres had developed good employer contacts to benefit candidates by offering visits/work experience.

## **Specific areas for improvement**

As these awards become more popular with candidates, the tendency is for centres to allocate higher numbers to classes. Centres should consider the implications of this approach on resources and on health and safety issues.

Although centres had greatly improved assessor feedback, the 'distance travelled' from one Unit to the next was not being recorded.

Centre staff should make more use of the SQA e-forum for these awards to share concerns over assessments/delivery and good practice.