



**National Qualifications 2016  
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 courses

**Group Award C242 74 Skills for Work: Engineering Skills (National 4)**

**Group Award C253 75 Skills for Work: Engineering Skills (National 5)**

## General comments

Six centres were selected for external verification this session with five delivering the awards and receiving visits. Two further education colleges were delivering the National 4 qualification and one school and two colleges were delivering the National 5 qualification. Most candidates were from S3/S4 with those undertaking the National 5 award from S5/S6. It was noticeable that within the north of Scotland that one college had a substantial number of National 5 candidates undertaking the course.

Where comment was made in the external verification reports, there seems to be a greater uptake of the awards by female candidates although the majority are still male.

All the centres had a comprehensive understanding of the national standards.

Three of the colleges visited had recently merged with other colleges and were in the on-going process of reviewing their recently produced joint procedures.

All centres received satisfactory visits.

## Course specification, unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The centres were familiar with the information in the course specification and recorded the requirements from the unit specifications in their internal verification procedures.

All centres except one were making use of the SQA-produced National Assessment Bank materials for candidate assessment. This centre had taken the initiative to develop full assessments and marking schemes for all units based on the NABs. These had been subject to internal approval for use and recorded in procedures. This centre had also developed alternative assessment material for all units.

## Evidence requirements

All centres have a clear understanding of the evidence requirements for the course. However, there was one case where a centre did not fully understand the importance of integrating employability skills into each individual unit and a few other centres were offering an inconsistent approach across various assessors.

## **Administration of assessments**

There is clear evidence in the centres offering the National 5 course that integration of assessments in the Mechanical and Fabrication and Design and Make units is a worthwhile achievement and allows candidates to see the inter-dependence of skills.

Centres were able to produce relevant internal verification procedures for external verifiers and in all cases there was evidence of adherence to the centre procedures in the candidate evidence sampled.

A few centres were still giving less focus to employability skills than the production of an artefact which resulted in poor feedback to candidates — monitoring and recording of these skills over the whole course is fundamental to this course.

## **Areas of good practice**

Verifiers recorded that candidate practical work, where seen, was to a very high standard with most candidates taking pride in finished artefacts.

Some innovative Design and Make projects were observed during visits.

One centre had developed alternative assessments for all units.

## **Specific areas for improvement**

Centres are advised that they should identify potential weaknesses in candidate technical and employability skills at an early stage of the course and provide written feedback as they monitor progress throughout the course.

Centres should commence development of alternative assessments if they have not already done so.