

Awarding Body Criteria 2007 (revised July 2011)

Appendix D

Criteria for SQA Accredited Qualifications

1 Overview

These criteria are linked to the *SQA Accreditation Awarding Body Criteria 2007* and, therefore, both should be read in conjunction with each other.

All Qualifications

SQA Accreditation can accredit a wide range of qualifications other than degrees. These qualifications will not necessarily use National Occupational Standards (NOS) and, for example, may be linked to regulatory requirements or professional bodies. Non-SVQ qualifications might be developed in conjunction with an SSC, professional body, regulatory authority or developed solely by an awarding body. If you are unsure if a qualification is suitable for accreditation, please contact SQA Accreditation for further advice.

Proposals for accreditation, or re-accreditation of any qualifications or qualification units, must meet the requirements of SQA Accreditation as outlined in the Accreditation/Re-accreditation Submission Form.

SVQs

Sector Skills Councils and Standards Setting Organisations (SSC/SSO) are responsible for developing NOS, qualification structures, assessment strategies and Core Skills signposting (Qualification Products). To be accredited an SVQ must use Qualification Products approved by SQA Accreditation.

2 Criteria for Accreditation

To be accredited:

all qualifications must:	In addition, all SVQs must:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• measure performance and/or knowledge outcomes• have defined principles and a methodology for assessment• identify which units must be achieved and which are either optional or additional• have a defined market in Scotland• be submitted by an SQA Accreditation approved awarding body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• use approved NOS as defined by a SSC/SSO• be written in the form of units and performance criteria and knowledge and understanding• assess the application of skills, knowledge and understanding as specified in the NOS.• include the approved title and level of the SVQ (SCQF level if appropriate)• show how the content of the NOS signposts to the relevant Core Skills.

3 Awarding Body submissions

Awarding bodies must submit:

For all qualifications:	Additionally for SVQs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Qualification rationale/ purpose and aim• Progression opportunities, where appropriate• Correct details of qualification content• Assessment methodology• Support from the SSC/SSO/Scottish employers• Guidance and support materials, including evidence requirements• Marketing plan and material• Support from Scottish employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved versions of the NOS, structure, assessment strategy and Core Skills Signposting must be sourced from the SSC. <p><i>Exceptionally, where an awarding body considers there are particular reasons for departing from the agreed structure, the need for an alternative must be justified in terms of there being evidence of demand and support from Scottish employment interests.</i></p>

4 Assessment Methodology

Awarding bodies must submit detailed proposals for assessment and guidance for each qualification accreditation proposal.

The Assessment Methodology must:

- 4.1 meet the requirements of any approved assessment principles (or SSC/O Assessment Strategy where the qualification is an SVQ)
- 4.2 detail how External Quality Control of assessment will be achieved.
- 4.3 detail minimum requirements for assessors and verifiers.
- 4.4 provide details of the type of evidence to be collected.
- 4.5 provide a copy of centre assessment guidance