



**Higher National Qualifications  
Internal Assessment Report 2013  
Construction Engineering**

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

# Higher National Units

## General comments

It is apparent from the External Verifiers' (EVs') reports that all centres have an extremely clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards.

## Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All assessors and Internal Verifiers (IVs) are thoroughly familiar with the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and the SQA-devised exemplar materials. This is evidenced in all centres by the quality of the design, structure and content of the centre-devised alternate instruments of assessment that have been prepared by the centre staff and subjected to rigorous internal verification processes.

## Evidence Requirements

There is no evidence this session that there has been any misunderstanding or misinterpretation of any of the Evidence Requirements expressed in any of the Units.

## Administration of assessments

The centres actively contribute to the Qualifications Support Team for this and associated verification groups. In this forum, there is considerable expression and sharing of good practice among the centres that benefits and enhances the understanding, application and administration of the assessment and verification processes. This also contributes greatly to the consistent, coherent and transparent application of national standards across the construction discipline.

As 'regionalisation' of the sector is embedded, many of the centres are rationalising and refining their administrative systems. It is significant that External Verifiers are already reporting that sophisticated and effective electronic systems are in place, to manage, store and record all elements of documentation to support delivery, learning, tutorial, assessment and IV and EV activities.

## General feedback

Generally, feedback to candidates is full, relevant and informative and in most cases, properly recorded. However, it was noted in one centre, that feedback to candidates was inadequate, particularly when he or she had performed poorly.

The wide majority of candidates found their course of study to be enjoyable and very worthwhile. The learning/ training provision was well structured, though intense at times. All commented on the accessibility of lecturers/assessors and the quality of the guidance and support that was offered by them. There was

considerable mention of the encouragement and provision within centres to investigate destination options prior to completion of the qualifications.

### **Areas of good practice**

Assessment and re-assessment instruments are developed to a very high standard of design, fully in accordance with Unit specifications and exemplar materials. In all circumstances, the instructions to candidates are clear and unambiguous.

The development and refinement of electronic systems for managing and recording all learning, teaching and assessment materials is to be commended. This initiative is leading to a more efficient, effective and enhanced audit process.

### **Specific areas for improvement**

It was noted that although standardisation processes generally are taking place, the documenting and recording of these was weak in a small minority of centres.

The feedback regime in one centre is to be reviewed in order to give better guidance and support to candidates who perform poorly in assessment events.