



Internal Assessment Report (2009): Construction (Plant and Operations)

Sector Panel or SSC:

ConstructionSkills

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

SVQ Awards

Titles/levels of SVQ Awards verified

G7CA 22 and G7CC 23: Construction Plant Maintenance

G898 22: Construction Plant Operations

General comments

Plant maintenance

The positive pattern of reports of last year has continued through this verification session, with all four centres receiving good sound results which are reflected in the positive reports they all received.

It is evident from the reports and discussions within the assessment team that the overall standard of assessment is consistent throughout the centres offering this award. There has been no significant change in the delivery and assessment methods used. This is because the award is a progressive learning cycle which must be strictly followed to ensure the candidates learn in a methodical procedure.

Candidates in general are young apprentices who come from a wide geographical area. Candidate numbers have increased this year, which is very encouraging in view of the current economic situation.

The assessment documentation used by the centres is not standardised in its presentation, though it is in content. This also shows that the staff fully understand the award framework and national standards.

Candidate numbers are up on last year, which in view of the current economic climate in this occupational area is very positive.

Advice on good practice

The verification visits highlighted several areas of good practice that should be shared:

- ◆ Where centres have good robust internal verification procedures, they tend to produce the higher standard of portfolios and evidence.
- ◆ Where regular team meetings take place, it is evident that relevant information is disseminated accordingly and that standardisation of assessment decisions becomes consistent.
- ◆ Individual assessor CPD records make it easier for External Verifiers to see that Assessors are maintaining their obligation to develop their individual skills as Assessors.
- ◆ Security of candidate portfolios/evidence is very good throughout all centres.

Areas for further development

Centres are encouraged to look not only at the areas of good practice that have been highlighted, but to constantly monitor all aspects of their own procedures and to look at ways to develop the delivery of the award.

General comments

Plant Operations

The main driving force within the industry for certification continues to be the requirement of a Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) Card for plant operators to gain access to major construction sites.

The standard of portfolios throughout the centres has generally been of a satisfactory to good level, with some centres producing excellent standards of portfolios.

There is still the trend for some centres to produce masses of similar secondary evidence which at times becomes irrelevant. Centres should prune this evidence to ensure that the most appropriate evidence is presented.

Overall the Assessors for the award are familiar with the Unit specifications, and assessment judgements are made at the appropriate level for the award.

Assessment documentation varies widely from centre to centre. However, the number who have based their materials on the SQA exemplar portfolio is very small. Some centres use the ConstructionSkills knowledge question bank and others have developed their own. Centres using a standardised bank of questions would be a move in the right direction for this award.

The standard of observation report writing has continued to improve, which is testament to the standardisation meetings that centres have been encouraged to hold.

Advice on good practice

The verification visits highlighted several areas of good practice that should be shared:

- ◆ The standard of internal verification procedures varies in content from centre to centre. Those centres that have good robust procedures tend to produce the higher standard of portfolios and evidence.
- ◆ Centres who have standardisation as a mandatory agenda point on their regular team meetings also produce good consistent standards of assessment.
- ◆ Some of the smaller centres who only have one Assessor communicate with similar-sized centres to ensure standardisation of assessment is taking place.
- ◆ There was evidence that individual Assessor CPD records were improving. Centres are encouraged to maintain and further improve this area of responsibility.
- ◆ Some centres have developed good candidate induction handbooks, which are an excellent and informative resource for candidates.

Areas for further development

Centres are encouraged to look not only at the areas of good practice that have been highlighted, but to constantly monitor all aspects of their own procedures and to look at ways to develop the delivery of the award.

By doing this, External Verifiers will be able to pass on good practice points to other centres. This will help standardise the delivery of this award throughout the approved centre network, which will benefit centres and candidates alike.

Specific areas to concentrate on are:

- ◆ Observation report writing
- ◆ Use of secondary evidence
- ◆ Question banks
- ◆ CPD records
- ◆ Photographic evidence