



NQ Verification 2017–18

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Practical Woodworking
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting
Date published:	June 2018

National Courses/Units verified:

H25Y 74 National 4 Making a Finished Product from Wood (Added Value Unit)
C862 75 National 5 Practical Woodworking: Practical Activity (IACCA*)

*Internally-assessed component of course assessment

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

National 4 — added value unit

Centres continue to, typically, choose from the three SQA-produced assessment support packs (ASPs) to undertake the assessment of the added value unit. However, centres can utilise their own ASPs (and can also submit these for prior verification — there is no requirement for this but it is recommended).

Most centre assessors confidently and correctly carried out added value assessments, however centres are reminded to refer to the re-assessment thresholds (available on the SQA website) should they be needed.

National 5 — practical activity

All verified centres used one of the three practical activity tasks provided by SQA to carry out this assessment. Most centres had used the current version of the practical activity and this is to be commended as it is clearly part of an embedded internal verification policy. A minority of centres initially used an older version of the practical activity, however this was identified during the telephone call to arrange the verification visit (which provided centres with the opportunity to remedy this).

A few centres had used material of a different thickness to that of the original SQA-produced drawings. This is permitted, however centres must amend the working drawings to reflect this and any consequential impact.

Centres are reminded that no additional/enhanced working drawings can be given to candidates — only the drawings provided by SQA as part of the practical activity.

The vast majority of centres are following the course specification document, particularly with regard to the power and machine tools that can be used for the practical activity.

Assessment judgements

National 4 — added value unit

The majority of centres are making fair and accurate assessment judgements. Assessors are confident in judging the evidence and make good use of the judging the evidence tables within the ASP. Some centres aided the verification process by including detailed comments on where the candidates had required additional guidance and where assessment standards were not met.

A minimal number of centres had not implemented the re-assessment procedures appropriately and candidates who had not passed one assessment standard were deemed to have failed the unit. A list of re-assessment thresholds is available on the SQA website for all units at National 4 (and also for the units of National 3 Practical Craft Skills).

One area which continues to challenge centres is assessment standard 1.3: *Manufacturing, with guidance, a wooden product to given drawings and to given standards*. Specifically, when assessing turnery skills using a woodworking lathe. To assess this standard appropriately, a template must have been used by the candidate and this template (whether candidate- or centre-generated) must be made available for the verification visit.

National 5 — practical activity

Overall, the assessment judgements made by centres were fair and accurate. Centres are commended for their implementation of the revised marking instruction.

The majority of centres were pleased with the revised marking instruction and commented that it was easily implemented and thus aided them in marking the candidates' work.

Similarly, the majority of centres were using the new log books. It should be noted that the log book must be used in its original format and not amended, however it can be completed manually or electronically.

On the whole, turnery was of a good standard, however a few centres are not following the tolerances for this area.

It is essential the assessors identify, through their marking comments, why marks have not been awarded (eg where the candidate hasn't worked independently). This will support both the internal and external verification process.

Centres are reminded that, once complete and assessed, the practical activity cannot be returned to candidates for rework.

03

Section 3: General comments

The National 4 added value unit remains unchanged for next session. Centres can use any of the SQA-produced ASPs or devise their own assessment.

Centres are reminded that from session 2018–19 onwards, a new National 5 practical activity will be used (and the three different tasks that were used in session 2017–18 will not be valid). A single, annually-issued practical activity will be made available to centres at the end of October each year; full details of the conditions of assessment can be found in the course specification.

National 5 specifically:

Log book

The log book cannot be altered in any way (eg it cannot be reformatted or have anything added or removed).

Machining and turnery

Turning tolerances state that candidates should work to two linear and two radial dimensions. A few centres marked leniently in this area as they did not implement any tolerances. In general, the turning element was completed to a good standard.

Assessment record

Verification was aided when the assessors used the 'Assessor comments/explanation' section effectively to justify marks. In several centres the quality of assessor commentary poor and lacked detail.

Internal verification

The quality of internal verification varied greatly between centres. Where a centre had a robust internal verification policy, there were fewer issues and queries during the verification visit. In a few centres the internal verification records lacked evidence that the internal verifier had actually reviewed the work. Further advice on internal verification can be found on SQA's website.