



NQ Verification 2014–15

Key Messages Round 2

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Practical Electronics
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting verification
Date published:	June 2015

National Courses/Units verified:

H25N 74 Practical Electronics: Added Value Unit

C760 75 Practical Electronics: Course practical activity

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

All tasks were taken from the SQA National 4 Unit assessment support packs (UASP) or from the bank of National 5 Course practical activities and, as such, the assessment approaches were valid.

There were examples where the quality of the practical work carried out by candidates was high. Layouts were generally neat, wires were cut to the correct length and used orthogonally, and soldering overall was to good standard. One centre clearly demonstrated the ethos of the SQA inclusion policy and had amended the way in which one candidate, with significant additional educational needs, approached the Course practical activity while still maintaining the integrity of the Assessment Standards and the validity of the assessment judgements.

Similar to last session, UASP tasks which indicate just an assessor checklist would benefit from local supplementary evidence to demonstrate how candidates achieved these tasks. This would also support internal verification procedures as well as remind assessors of the progress candidates have made towards achievement of the task. This is especially relevant for the practical activities — one centre has indicated that it will review its internal verification procedures and increase the use of assessor's commentary boxes and also increase internal verifier's comments for next session.

Assessment judgements

Assessment judgements were found to be in line with UASP requirements, however centres should consider the use of supplementary information regarding how assessment decisions are reached for the construction part of the tasks as this was not always obvious when viewing completed circuits.

Construction skills form a big part of the activities at both National 4 and National 5 and candidates need time and practice to gain experience with these, predominately, hand skills. Some centres have expressed concern with regard to the limited time and resources available to develop these skills. Some centres have noted a shortage of expertise by the teaching staff with these skills and have indicated that they would benefit from cross-verification and discussion with other local centres regarding assessment judgements.

03 Section 3: General comments

It was noted in section 2 that centres would benefit from cross-verification and discussion with other local centres regarding assessment judgements. This will assist the centres involved with delivering impartial and consistent marking of assessments.

It is hoped that centres will continue to provide clear internal verification policies and evidence of their implementation.

This session has highlighted some good examples in the following areas:

- ◆ timing of activities across candidates' workload
- ◆ time management of tasks
- ◆ resource management
- ◆ internal verification activities
- ◆ local supplementary information to support assessor judgements
- ◆ high standard of practical work by candidates

Additionally, it was noted that a number of candidates who were entered for the National 4 Course did not complete the National 4 Added Value Unit. The main reasons given were inappropriate candidate selection and/or candidates prioritising other work at the end of the academic session. The number of candidates not completing the National 4 Added Value Unit is a concern but it is hoped that methods can be developed to encourage candidates to complete the Added Value Unit.