



NQ Verification 2017–18

Key Messages Round 1

01

Section 1: Verification group information

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

National Courses/Units verified:

Unit code	Level	Unit title
H25G	National 3	Working with Tools
H25H	National 3	Working with Materials
H25J	National 3	Making an Item
H25V	National 4	Flat Frame Construction
H25V	SCQF level 5	Flat Frame Construction
H25W	National 4	Carcase Construction
H25W	SCQF level 5	Carcase Construction
H25X	National 4	Machining and Finishing
H25X	SCQF level 5	Machining and Finishing

02

Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

- ◆ The majority of centres are praised for their diligence in taking on board the 2016–17 key messages. There is absolute confidence that the majority of centres will again make sure they read and follow the advice given below regarding approaches to assessment.
- ◆ A number of centres chose to incorporate individuality and creativity into the projects, which must also be praised.
- ◆ There was a mix of approaches this year with several centres using their own prior verified assessment. (It is always recommended that centres submit any centre-devised assessments for prior verification, which is a free service that ensures an approach to assessment is acceptable.)
- ◆ A few centres were offering some National 5 units as freestanding units.
- ◆ Centres developing their own approach to assessment, or amending sizes of SQA-produced assessments, are reminded that detailed working drawings

must be produced to allow candidates to work to specific sizes and overall tolerances. This is also required for practice joints, where they are used for assessment purposes.

- ◆ Assessment standards that refer to skills-based evidence were generally approached extremely well by all centres across all levels, eg National 4, Flat Frame Construction — ‘3.3 Assembling the component parts, with guidance, such that joint gaps and overall sizes are within specified tolerance’. Centres have an excellent understanding of generating evidence that demonstrates candidates’ skills.
- ◆ A few centres are becoming more creative in their approach to generating evidence for assessment standards that refer to candidate knowledge and understanding, eg National 4, Flat Frame Construction — ‘3.5 Carrying out good practice in terms of sustainability and recycling’.
- ◆ A few centres need reminded that Practical Woodworking joints in outcome 2 of Flat Frame Construction and Carcase Construction units must **not** be glued prior to both internal and external verification procedures taking place; however, the majority of centres are taking this advice on board.
- ◆ We would reiterate that machine/power tools, other than those specified in the unit specifications, are not valid for assessment purposes. The majority of centres are taking this advice on board, but a few are still submitting candidate evidence that cannot be assessed because of invalid machine use.

Assessment judgements

The majority of centres are making fair, accurate and, above all, reliable assessment judgements across the majority of assessment standards in all levels/units within this verification group, and centres are commended for their hard work in this area. Both internal and external quality assurance procedures are ensuring the continued credibility of assessment judgements in the subjects within this verification group.

Where centres had made use of unit assessment support packs, assessors had made effective use of the information contained in the ‘judging evidence’ tables to support assessment judgements for each candidate. On the whole, assessment judgements were clearly based on the assessment standards and candidates had been appropriately identified as ‘pass’ or ‘fail’ against these. From the evidence submitted, it was clear that most assessors have accurately and consistently applied the assessment standards and they not only have an excellent grasp of the standards, but are striving to ensure that candidates produce professional, high quality work.

In a minority of centres, assessment judgements were not accepted; in all of these instances, the assessment decisions were deemed to be too lenient for some or all of the candidates. The ‘judging evidence’ tables within the appropriate unit assessment support pack must be used to make reliable assessment decisions.

Section 3: General comments

Centres should be reminded that the recording of assessor comments about 'independence of work', 'safe working practices' and 'confirming that tools are in good and safe working order', all aid the verification process.

Some centres are incorporating the 'Re-assessment Thresholds' guidance appropriately but other centres need to be reminded that these are for re-assessment purposes only and candidates should be given the opportunity to attempt all the assessment standards in the first instance.