



Internal Assessment Report: SVQ Electrical SJIB/ECI (187)

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

G7NY 23: Electrotechnical Services (Electrical Installation – Building and Structures)

G7FA 23: Electrical Installation

General comments

For this SVQ an approved assessment specification was produced by SQA and the industry partners, the Scottish Joint Industry Board (SJIB).

This specification has broken down the national standards into specific performance objectives (POs) for all the various skills that the candidate requires for satisfactory completion of the SVQ.

The assessment specification also recommends the type and content of each of the POs' assessment.

Each centre follows the recommended assessments and has developed assessments and projects to encompass these POs for both the practical and knowledge skills required to meet the demands of the National Units.

Centre assessors meet on a regular basis with other assessors from three geographical areas – north, east and west – for consortium meetings with the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) to discuss new materials, assessment decisions, project development and the development of learning material.

One member from each of the consortium meetings will meet with the manager and training officers of SECTT to discuss the findings of the three consortiums and give feedback to their group members and thus to the team members of each of the centres.

Two members of each centre are invited to a yearly symposium, where new or additional material for the SVQ is presented and where each representative can voice their concern, approval or recommendation. Representatives from SQA, SJIB, SECTT, Summit Skills, Health and Safety, External Verifiers and the industry's trade union attend this meeting and would normally have an input.

In this way the centre assessors for the SVQ are working as a team and are very familiar with all assessment and exemplification material.

In addition, the SVQ External Verifiers have two cognate group meetings with the manager of SECTT to discuss the progress and delivery of the SVQ.

As indicated in the previous sections, each centre is fully aware of the assessment and delivery requirements for the SVQ. Evidence requirements for each of the performance objectives are included in the assessment specification.

Assessments for the IEE Regulations and Electrical Principles are presented as standalone assessments, while those involving Electrical Installation and Practical Skills are integrated within projects.

The assessment team for each centre follows their own centre's IV system. Assessors and Internal Verifiers meet regularly to discuss feedback from the evidence sources and those salient points that the External Verifier raises.

In general, the centres verify the standard of assessments/projects over a set period, which varies from a two-year or three-year rollover programme. Verifying 25% of candidate evidence internally seems to be the norm.

The centres are all working to bring their assessors and verifiers up to the required standards.

On visits to the centres, feedback from the candidates was positive about the content, quality and delivery of the VQ.

There were no problems with access and feedback from the assessments and projects. Both candidates and employers receive a block program of studies for each year of the VQ. Candidates receive a personal learning plan and a block timetable of the distribution of the POs during their studies for each block.

At the end of their third year, candidates study the Inspection and Testing POs before the completion of their final national standard, ie the Final Instrument of Competence Assessment (FICA).

Before they attend their FICA, each candidate is allowed six hours of remediation at the centres.

Areas of good practice

The following are a collection of comments from the attending External Verifiers:

'The presentation of the course continues to be of a high standard and the induction booklet provides an excellent guide for the students and identifies exactly where they are on the Course.'

'The staff were very positive in their response to any comments/points raised.'

'The centre also issues candidates with a personal learning plan.'

'Project work presented has indicated a very high standard of course delivery of the second stage programme.'

'The sample of portfolios of first and second year candidates confirms that the assessment standards were fair and accurate, and the portfolios of evidence identified that the candidates had obtained a high standard of knowledge of their subject area.'

'The workshop provides a safe environment and is very well equipped, ensuring the students receive the best possible opportunity to enhance their practical training.'

'The assessments sampled were accurate and consistent, portfolios were of an excellent standard, and the project portfolios of evidence were well presented and also consistent with the standard of the awarding bodies.'

'The section follows very well the internal verification procedures, as laid down by the college, which are of an excellent standard. All information required was readily available and student records were well documented, as were those of staff.'

'A high standard is achieved, with a good completion rate in a modern, well-equipped facility.'

'Excellent work in integrating the PO assessments within both the written and practical projects.'

'Good use of the internet was evident in locating evidence required.'

It is evident from the EV reports that the centres are striving to attain a high standard in their delivery of the VQ.

All portfolios and assessments are well filed and safely secured in file cabinets in a secure room.

Areas for improvement

The application of risk assessment method statements seems to be difficult at apprentice level. However, as this item is a relatively new inclusion it will require some oversight and guidance during session 2010–2011.

The delivery teams could consider implementing more of the VQ assessments within the installation projects, so that the candidates' task would seem more relevant.