Scottish Vocational Qualifications
Internal Assessment Report 2014
Brickwork

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

SVQ awards

General comments

There was clear evidence from external verification activity for academic year 2013–14 to confirm that all centres continue to have a well-developed, concise and detailed understanding of the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Bricklaying, and specifically at PDA and SVQ qualifications level. However, many centres are still unclear on the timelines for resulting PDA and SVQ Units and qualifications, including generic and CREWs and Phase Test Units.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Assessors at almost all centres had a clear understanding of the requirements of all Unit specifications and the SQA-devised assessment instruments — Training and Assessment Programmes (TAPs). The evidence from verification activity continues to support the view that assessors at almost centres have managed the recent changes to the TAPs well and have continued to maintain high standards in assessing the SVQ in an effective manner.

Evidence Requirements

All centres continue to meet the Evidence Requirements of all specialist and generic Units within the PDA and SVQ. Candidate practical brickwork evidence was once again noted as being of a very high standard and indeed was noted as good practice in three External Verifier reports.

Changes to the structure of the qualification resulted in the introduction of two additional Units. These Units required centres to collate and review candidate evidence from the workplace (CREWs) and to assess each candidate's practical competence at the end of each academic year (Phase Tests).

 All External Verifier reports noted that the Evidence Requirements for these additional Units were being addressed appropriately at all centres.

Administration of assessments

All centres were complying fully with the requirements of industry's Assessment Strategy in terms of assessors and internal verifiers being occupationally competent, having a sound in-depth knowledge of the National Occupational Standards, participating in relevant CPD, and holding appropriate assessor and verifier qualifications. However, CPD records were reported as being very limited in terms of detail at one centre.

Effective internal verification activity was reported at all centres during academic year 2013–14.

Evidence from the workplace (CREWs) was available for all candidates and was being used to identify candidate development needs and to plan interventions.

Assessment records and materials, candidate documentation and portfolios were well organised and consistent in all centres. All dates and signatures were recorded for all candidates, ensuring an effective internal and external quality assurance focus.

Effective administration arrangements were in place in all centres and these arrangements supported staff well during delivery of the qualification.

General feedback

In all centres verified, feedback to candidates from both competence and knowledge assessments was very effective and was supportive and developmental in nature. Candidates at almost all centres commented that they valued this feedback as part of their learning experience.

In general, candidates were happy with the assessment process, the pace of assessment and the support they received from centre staff.

In more than a few centres, candidate development needs were identified and addressed using Personal Learning Plans, which were used by candidates and staff to plan short-term targets and goals.

Areas of good practice

The following areas of good practice were reported during the 2013–14 session:

♦ Identifying and addressing candidate needs through Personal Learning Plans
♦ Candidate results and progress-tracking documentation
♦ Effective integration and embedding of the Associated Subjects Unit
♦ Quality of candidate practical brickwork evidence
♦ Very effective and supportive feedback to candidates with clear target setting (Medals & Missions)
♦ Sponsorship from industry

Specific areas for improvement

The following areas for improvement were noted.

♦ Inappropriate judgement of candidate bonding arrangements for back-to-back fireplace openings
♦ CPD records with limited detail of activities and outcomes
♦ Records of standardisation activities taking place