



**Scottish Vocational Qualifications
Internal Assessment Report 2013
Plumbing**

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

SVQ awards

General comments

In most cases, centres had a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards. In one case, a centre had not updated the staff trade-specific continuing professional development. This is a requirement of the Assessment Strategy.

In a different centre, one assessor appears to have achieved the Plumbing 177 Level 3 SVQ without the workplace experience required by the Assessment Strategy.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

During discussions with centre assessors and Internal Verifiers, all were familiar with the Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials.

Evidence Requirements

All centres retained the practical artefacts and completed scripts required for external verification.

Administration of assessments

External Verifier reports indicate that the assessment and internal verification procedures are administered through centre policy, folders or online, and are available to all appropriate staff.

Centre staff complied with the procedures. The procedures complied with SQA requirements.

Much of the assessment is online using SQA's SOLAR assessments and so is pre-verified.

General feedback

External Verifiers spoke to candidates during every visit. The candidates confirmed that they had received positive feedback from assessors, with appropriate support where required.

Some candidates said that there was too much lead work in the programme as they never did any at work.

All centres have arrangements in place to support candidates during the course, including assessment. For example, this year a scribe supported a first year candidate. The candidate progressed during the year to a stage where they no longer needed a scribe.

One Internal Verifier was disappointed that, to date, there was no SOLAR assessment material available for the Emergent Technologies option of the new SVQ. This was causing delivery problems for the centre.

Areas of good practice

Most centres are giving trainers feedback from SOLAR e-assessments. This allows the success of the delivery programme to be monitored and amended where necessary.

The use of realistic work place environments is of a high standard.

Specific areas for improvement

External Verifiers and delivering centres must be vigilant to prevent candidates gaining the award without the necessary workplace experience.

Some centres would benefit from introducing a system of evaluation for SOLAR assessment, identifying areas of strengths and areas of weaknesses, to provide feedback to staff so they can enhance learning and teaching approaches.