



**Higher National Qualifications**

**And**

**Scottish Vocational Qualifications**

**Senior Verifier Report**

**2007**

**Subject: Construction Engineering**

**Sector Panel or SSC: Construction skills**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification which has taken place within Higher National and Scottish Vocational Qualifications in this subject.

## **HIGHER NATIONAL UNITS**

### **FEEDBACK TO CENTRES**

#### **General comments:**

This is a transition period as centres adopt the new format HNC/Ds with graded unit assessments. Centres who have adopted the new arrangements generally prepared candidates well and the graded unit projects were found to present a beneficial learning experience for candidates. This being the first year of the new units, all centres presenting candidates graded units were externally verified.

Centres who continued with the 'old' HN awards and the group activities were done well.

#### **Advice on good practice and areas for further development:**

The importance of clear model solutions and marking schemes should be emphasised. Recorded written feedback to candidates following assessments will enhance the learning experience and should result in raising the students' performance in graded unit assessment projects.

It would be particularly helpful if centres' assessments were prior verified.

## HIGHER NATIONAL GRADED UNITS

### TITLES/LEVELS OF HN GRADED UNITS VERIFIED

Construction Engineering Graded Unit (level 7)

### FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

#### General comments:

There are examples of the appropriate use of IT in recording results, progress, and teaching materials. In response to changes in centre personnel internal verification procedures have been adapted in the light of new lecturing staff, some on part time arrangements, and also resulting from changed organisation structures.

#### Advice on good practice and areas for further development:

Structured and recorded feedback to candidates is essential if standards required by industry are to continue to be met.

## **SVQ AWARDS**

### **TITLES/LEVELS OF SVQ AWARDS VERIFIED**

**Construction Site Supervision Level 4**

### **FEEDBACK TO CENTRES**

#### **General comments:**

Successful candidates when interviewed are generally happy with the 'VQ' experience, some candidates, however, eventually do not complete after long periods of inactivity.

Centres have varying approaches to assessment and perhaps there can be too much assistance provided to individual candidates.

#### **Advice on good practice and areas for further development:**

Centres should encourage candidates to take ownership of portfolios, which should be considered as 'works in progress' with handwritten annotations etc. This is particularly important where centres have adopted electronic portfolios.

## **NATIONAL UNITS**

**(i.e. Freestanding units which contribute to NPAs or NCs etc.)**

**Centre Devised NCs**

## **TITLES/LEVELS OF NATIONAL UNITS VERIFIED**

**STRUCTURAL MECHANICS LEVEL 6**

## **FEEDBACK TO CENTRES**

### **General comments:**

This is satisfactory at this level.

A new national NC Built Environment and Civil Engineering award is currently being developed for implementation in session 2008/09.

### **Advice on good practice and areas for further development:**

Centres continue to enhance the students experience by using laboratories for practical materials testing etc. In some cases this requires visits to other centres where particular locations have no laboratories.

The use of electronic information databases can be particularly informative for access to live sites. Site visits should be incorporated wherever practicable.