



Qualification Verification Summary Report

NQ Verification 2019–20

01

Section 1: Verification group information

Verification group name:	Practical Woodworking
Verification event/visiting information	Visiting
Date published:	July 2020

National Courses/Units verified:

H25G 73	National 3	Working with Tools
H25H 73	National 3	Working with Materials
H25J 73	National 3	Making an Item
H25V 74	National 4	Practical Woodworking: Flat Frame Construction
H25W 74	National 4	Practical Woodworking: Carcase Construction
H25X 74	National 4	Practical Woodworking: Machining and Finishing
H25Y 74	National 4	Making a Finished Product from Wood — added value unit
C862 75	National 5	Practical Woodworking: Practical Activity — IACCA*

*Internally-assessed component of course assessment

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Section 2: Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

The majority of centres are to be commended for taking on board the information contained in the 2018–19 course report.

The majority of centres made good use of unit assessment support pack (UASP) materials. A growing number of centres devised their own unit assessments and are reminded that there is the opportunity for SQA prior verification of these.

Centres are reminded that all evidence of assessment judgements should be retained for verification purposes.

National 3 — units

The majority of projects were made from wood, but centres are reminded that metalwork projects can also be used at this level. All centres should be commended for their creative and inclusive assessment approaches to these units.

National 4 — units

Centres used the units of assessment from the SQA-produced unit assessment support packs and centre-devised unit assessments.

In the 2018–19 qualification verification summary report it was noted that some centres had National 4 candidates producing National 5 joints (for example the stopped housing joint) as part of a unit assessment. This was still an issue in 2019–20 and centres are reminded that this will lead to a ‘not accepted’ verification outcome as the instrument of assessment is invalid — National 4 content must be used in an assessment at National 4 level.

Centres are also reminded not to paint, use filler or anything else which obscures the candidate’s work to allow the verification process to take place.

National 4 — added value unit

Although no verification activity took place, the feedback from verifiers contacting centres to arrange visits was that the majority of centres continue to choose from the set of three unit assessment support packs (UASPs). Centres can devise their own added value unit and are reminded to use the UASPs and the SQA prior verification service to assist in this.

Centres are also reminded that candidate log books can be completed throughout the course and not just the added value unit.

National 5 — practical activity

Although no verification activity took place, the feedback from verifiers contacting centres to arrange visits was that centres had all used the practical activity task for session 2019–20 from the secure area of the SQA website — this being the only instrument of assessment valid for this session.

Centres are reminded of the set of videos available on the Understanding Standards website to support centres in applying the marking instructions of the practical activity (this resource was highlighted by verifiers when making initial contact with centres). We would encourage all centres to continue making use of this valuable resource to aid their assessment judgements.

Candidates can choose to complete the log book through manual or electronic means — both are acceptable and these can be completed throughout the course.

Assessment judgements

The majority of centres made accurate and reliable assessment judgements for National 3 and 4. A minority of centres had failed to carry out the re-assessment thresholds when assessing National 4 units leading to 'not accepted' outcomes. Centres are reminded to include detailed commentary where candidates had required additional guidance and/or where assessment standards were not met or marks not awarded as this supports both the internal and external verification processes.

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Section 3: General comments

A large number of centres were selected for round 1 or round 2 verification this session. Centres selected for round 1 had unit work from National 3 and National 4 verified. Round 2 verification concentrated on the National 4 added value unit and the National 5 practical activity (IACCA).

The majority of centre staff engaged well with external verification and found the process to be supportive and transparent.

Most centres recorded their assessment judgements clearly using the candidate assessment record. In some instances, however, there were no comments to justify or explain assessment judgements. This is an important part of both the assessment and verification processes and centres should always record this in a suitable format.

Most centres' assessment judgements were deemed to be accurate, consistent and reliable, in line with the national standard.

The majority of centres demonstrated clear evidence of effective internal verification procedures.

Centres currently without an internal verification procedure are reminded that this is a requirement, and it is a condition of approval to offer SQA qualifications.

Centres are reminded that SQA provides a prior verification service for centres to have centre-devised unit assessments verified before delivery. This is strongly recommended to ensure assessments are valid.

More information on internal verification and prior verification can be found on the National Qualifications QA web page, on the SQA website.

Session 2020–21

Centres are reminded that the National 5 practical activity changes each session. The practical activity for use in session 2020–21 will be published at the end of October 2020 and it is the only instrument of assessment that can be used.

Useful links

[Understanding Standards National 5 Practical Woodworking videos](#)

[National 5 Practical Woodworking specimen log book](#)