Scottish Vocational Qualifications

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2018
Building Services Engineering — Plumbing

Introduction

The Qualification Verification Summary Report 2018 for Building Services Engineering — Plumbing focuses on SQA's external verification activity over 33 events in 2017–18. Visits were scheduled for Scottish Vocational Qualifications, National Workplace Assessed Specifications, and National Units at SCQF level 4 and level 5.

Scottish Vocational Qualifications:

GK71 23	Domestic Plumbing and Heating
H94X 04	Apply Health and Safety and Environmental Legislation in the Building Services Engineering Sector
H94Y 04	Establish and Maintain Relationships in the Building Services Engineering Sector
H950 04	Co-ordinate a Work Site in the Building Services Engineering Sector
H98E 04	Perform Electrical Work on Mechanical Building Services Systems
H98F 04	Install and Test Domestic Plumbing and Heating Systems
H98G 04	Service and Maintain Domestic Plumbing and Heating Systems
H98H 04	Inspect and Pre-commission Domestic Plumbing and Heating Systems
H98J 04	Commission Domestic Plumbing and Heating Systems
H98K 04	Decommission Domestic Plumbing and Heating Systems
H98L 04	Install Sheet Weathering Protection
H98M 04	Domestic Plumbing and Heating Final Competence Assessment

National Workplace Assessed unit:

F8XJ 04	Working Principles, Installation Options, and Regulatory Requirements for Micro-Renewable Technologies, Water Harvesting, and Recycling Technologies

National Units:

F1L6 10	Plumbing Services: An Introduction
F1L7 11	Hot and Cold Water Systems: An Introduction
F1L8 11	Prepare and Secure Domestic Plumbing Appliances: An Introduction
F1L9 11	Install and Connect Domestic Plumbing Appliances: An Introduction
F1LA 11	Sheet Lead Weathering: An Introduction
F1LB 11	Discharge Systems: An Introduction

Category 2: Resources

Criterion 2.1: Assessors and internal verifiers must be competent to assess and internally verify, in line with the requirements of the qualification.

Staff at all of the centres involved in the assessment and internal verification of the regulated qualification: SVQ 3 Domestic Plumbing and Heating at SCQF level 7 (GK71 23) at SQA approved centres are suitably qualified, have relevant occupational experience, and receive appropriate continuing professional development according to the requirements of the SSC Assessment Strategy. All supporting information provided by centres evidenced Criterion 2.1.

Criterion 2.4: There must be evidence of initial and ongoing reviews of assessment environments; equipment; and reference, learning and assessment materials.

All centres provided verifiable evidence of initial and ongoing review of assessment environments, assessment procedures, equipment, learning resources, and assessment materials. A common theme of evidence provided was in the form of checklists, minutes of standardisation meetings, and evidence of professional discussion. All centres have conformed to the requirements of the SSC Assessment Strategy pertaining to the realistic working environment and safety critical aspects of work in relation to appropriate legislation and standards adhered to in the domestic plumbing and heating industry.

Category 3: Candidate support

Criterion 3.2: Candidates' development needs and prior achievements (where appropriate) must be matched against the requirements of the award.

All centres provided verifiable evidence of candidates' development needs and prior achievements being matched against the requirements of the award. A common theme of evidence provided was in the form of checklists, induction and enrolment information, guidance procedures, and policies pertaining to learner support mechanisms available at centres.

Criterion 3.3: Candidates must have scheduled contact with their assessor to review their progress and to revise their assessment plans accordingly.

All centres have effective procedures and evaluative measures in place for candidates to review their progress and assessment plans with designated assessors from curriculum teams. Verifiable evidence was provided in the form of assessment schedules (agreed by assessment teams and candidates) and formal feedback paperwork pertaining to relevant assessment criteria.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

Criterion 4.2: Internal assessment and verification procedures must be implemented to ensure standardisation of assessment.

Almost all of the centres externally verified implemented effective assessment and internal verification procedures to ensure standardisation of assessment. Verifiable evidence included centre assessment and internal verification policies/procedures, and internal verification schedules developed by staff managing plumbing programmes. Almost all centres, where specific assessment was assessed by one or more assessors, ensured standardisation of assessment and this was evidenced through professional discussion logs and minutes of standardisation meetings.

Criterion 4.3: Assessment instruments and methods and their selection and use must be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair.

All centres have demonstrated the effective selection and use of assessment methods and instruments of assessments to ensure that assessments are practicable, valid, reliable, equitable, and fair. All centres utilise training and assessment packages and assessments prior verified by SQA for candidates' theoretical and practical assessment, and candidates complete underpinning knowledge assessments through the SQA SOLAR format, where applicable.

Criterion 4.4: Assessment evidence must be the candidate's own work, generated under SQA's required conditions.

All centres provided verifiable assessment evidence generated under SQA required conditions, where it can be deemed that the work of the candidate and the assessment judgement is informed according to centre policies and procedures. Verifiable evidence was focussed on the prevention of plagiarism, codes of conduct when undertaking assessment, authenticity checks throughout assessment, internal verification records, and online results reflecting centre results for certification purposes.

Criterion 4.6: Evidence of candidates' work must be accurately and consistently judged by assessors against SQA's requirements.

Almost all centres made accurate and consistent assessment judgements to ensure that SQA requirements were adhered to. Training and assessment packages are prior verified, with model answers available for assignment submissions. SQA SOLAR assessments are prior verified before they are available online. Almost all centres ensured that marked assessments were consistent to the training and assessment packages developed by SQA.

Criterion 4.7: Candidate evidence must be retained in line with SQA requirements.

All centres were very effective in retaining candidate assessment evidence in line with SQA requirements. Assessment evidence was held in secure locations and only accessible to competent, nominated members of staff responsible for assessment, internal verification, and preparation for SQA external verification.

Criterion 4.9: Feedback from qualification verifiers must be disseminated to staff and used to inform assessment practice.

All centres involved in the assessment and internal verification of SQA plumbing qualifications disseminated information effectively to centre staff to inform them of the results of qualification verification visits. This is evidenced through professional discussion and minutes of standardisation meetings where staff are informed of good practice, recommendations, and areas of improvement, where relevant.

Areas of good practice reported by qualification verifiers

The following good practice was reported during session 2017–18:

♦ Centres were using fully qualified plumbers to assess National Units in learning contexts such as in the Scottish Prison Service, where the assessor also increased the motivation of trainees in order to enhance their employability prospects and problem solving capabilities.
♦ Candidates' involvement in standardisation activities had an input on learning and teaching approaches delivered by curriculum teams.
♦ Candidates were undertaking extra-curricular activities to further enhance their skills, practical abilities, and compliance with health and safety legislation.
♦ Centre links with the plumbing industry enhanced the learner experience, with fully operational plumbing and heating systems installed in the practical context, providing increased holistic approaches to learning and teaching for the SVQ 3 in Domestic Plumbing and Heating.
♦ The use of workbooks for candidates where practical activity is chronological for years 1 and 2, providing candidates with an insight into progression in the practical context.
♦ Virtual learning environments were used for accessing notes, presentations, and uploading work-based evidence.
♦ Candidates received learner support through guidance activity as well as enhancing their learning capabilities through the use of personal development plans.

Specific areas for development

The following areas for development were reported during session 2017–18:

♦ Assessments marked by two or more assessors must be standardised by centres and internally verified to ensure compliance with centre internal verification policies and procedures.
♦ Internal verification schedules development must indicate the assessor and internal verifier responsibility for units delivered in the SVQ group award.
♦ Centres must ensure that prior verified assessment material is marked according to the standardised model answer templates provided by SQA.