



# NQ verification 2022–23 round 2

## Qualification verification summary report

### Section 1: verification group information

<b>Verification group name:</b>	<b>Practical Metalworking</b>
<b>Verification activity:</b>	<b>Visit</b>
<b>Date published:</b>	<b>June 2023</b>

### National Course components verified

<b>Course code</b>	<b>Course level</b>	<b>Course title</b>
C861 75	National 5	Practical Metalworking IACCA

### Section 2: comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

The annually issued practical activity assessment task is the mandatory course assessment. All verified centres used the correct version.

No verified centre had any issues with the parts and materials document published to ensure centres could buy materials and fixings early enough to begin the practical activity assessment task.

Good practice was noted in centres which were fully 'accepted' for their approach to assessment: the assessor spent time talking through the practical activity documentation before starting to gather evidence. Candidates need to be informed of assessment conditions and know what they should do to complete the practical activity.

The majority of centres were consistent in their approach to assessing functional sizes. These centres correctly used five of the suggested dimensions from the table in the practical activity, selecting at least one from each area. Assessors had indicated either on the assessment record, or a pro forma devised by the centre, which functional sizes had been selected for assessment and shown the awarded mark. These functional dimensions were consistent for all candidates within the group. However, a few centres did not inform candidates about the functional dimensions chosen or their importance in relation to the

marking instructions before starting the practical activity task. All of these centres were 'accepted\*' or 'not accepted' for approach to assessment, dependent on any other identified issues.

Within a few centres, the entire cohort of candidates had not correctly followed the information on the drawings regarding joining methods. The main issue was the incorrect use of rivets. Centres must ensure they have all the necessary materials before beginning the practical activity and follow the instructions given in the practical activity; that is, if the practical activity states that snap head rivets should be used, then centres should not be issuing any other type of rivet to candidates. All of these centres were either 'accepted\*' or 'not accepted' for approach to assessment, dependent on any other identified issues.

A minority of centres had issued candidates with different material thicknesses to those specified in the assessment task. While most of these centres had correctly updated the drawings to suit these changes, a minority of centres did not. Centres are reminded that they must try to obtain the material thicknesses as specified in the assessment task. Only in circumstances where specified material cannot be sourced, can centres adapt working drawings and issue a different thickness of material. Centres do not need to inform SQA if a change in material thickness is necessary.

Centres are reminded that any change of material thickness that changes the validity or fairness of the assessment will result in a 'not accepted' outcome and may affect candidates' overall results.

A minority of centres had applied a finish that obscured candidates' practical evidence before visiting verification took place. Visiting verifiers were therefore not able to fully verify assessment judgements. Centres must ensure that candidates do not apply any finish that obscures their work, such as paint or dip coating. A clear lacquer can be applied. If a centre applies a finish that obscures candidates' work, it will result in a 'not accepted' outcome.

A very small number of centres displayed arithmetical errors this year, both in the verification sample form and in the internally assessed mark form. Centres must check every mark awarded and the totals before completing these forms, as part of the internal verification activity.

### **Assessment judgements**

All centres are reminded that there are materials on the SQA Understanding Standards website which candidates, assessors, and internal verifiers should view and use before beginning the practical activity task. There is also a specimen log book available on the Practical Metalworking (National 5) page of the SQA website, which gives an example of a completed log book and highlights where marks have been awarded. All the above support helps ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the standards required at the National 5 level when working on this practical activity task during the process of gathering evidence, assessing, and internal verification.

Some centres continue to mark the log book leniently. This is the main area of the marking instructions where some centres had applied lenient marking. As stated above, centres should use Understanding Standards materials and the specimen log book, along with the provided marking instructions when awarding marks in this area.

A few centres are still incorrectly awarding marks to candidate evidence even though candidates have used machinery and/or tools that are not listed in the Practical Metalworking (National 5) course specification document. Machinery such as grinders and tools such as coping saws, which are not in the practical activity section of the course specification, should not be used within the logbook; if candidates use these machinery and/or tools, marks should not be awarded. Incorrect awarding of marks in this area was a direct cause of centres not receiving the 'accepted' outcome of visiting verification.

Centres must follow the guidance in the practical activity task documentation and, in particular, the wording in the 'Detailed marking instructions' when applying marks to candidate evidence.

Some centres had incorrectly applied the independence of work marks to their candidates. Centres are reminded that candidates must not be awarded full marks in any section if evidence from that section is incomplete. For example, if the tray is missing from the 'Garden Lantern' practical activity, then the candidate cannot achieve full marks in the bench work, fabrication or finishing sections of the marking instructions. Furthermore, candidates cannot achieve full marks in the independence of work area within these sections.

Our visiting verifiers reported that many candidates could not gain marks due to a poor standard of preparing the component parts for a finish. It is recommended that centres advise candidates, before assessment takes place, of the standard of finish required at National 5 level (for example, deburring and polishing component parts to remove scratches and process marks). If the candidate makes no attempt to prepare the components for a finish, then no marks should be awarded in this area.

### **Section 3: general comments**

If selected for visiting verification, centres must ensure that any non-permanent mechanical joints, such as internal and external threads, should be easily disassembled to aid the verification process.

The majority of centres had evidence of internal verification at most stages.

Some centres had comments from both the internal assessor and internal verifier for each section. If the marks differ, it must be clear which mark has been awarded to the candidate. The final marking decision should be made through discussion and with reference to the marking instructions.

A minority of centres reported that malfunctions in their machinery or equipment led to candidates not being able to complete the practical activity task to the standards specified in the working drawings. Centres are reminded that it is their responsibility to provide candidates with all materials, equipment and any other resources required to complete any component of the course assessment. Marks cannot be awarded to any candidate who has not provided evidence as a result of this.

Centres are reminded that alternative assessment arrangements can be used to support candidates when they are generating evidence for the practical activity. This may be especially important in the log book area.