

NQ Practical Metalworking Verification Summary 2025–26

Verification information

Subject	Practical Metalworking
Verification activity	Visit
Round	2
Date published	September 2026

National Course components verified

Course code	Course level	Component title
C882 75	National 5	Practical Activity Assessment Task: Toy Train

You can find the [grade boundary statistics](#) for this course on our website.

Comments on assessment

Assessment approaches

All verified centres used the mandatory, annually issued practical activity. Most centres reported that assessors and candidates liked the format of this year's assessment.

This year, the practical activity featured a case study for the first time. The case study replaces the question paper and samples from the full range of skills, knowledge and understanding from the course. Almost all centres applied the marking instructions to standard.

Compared with previous years, fewer centres gave candidates materials of incorrect thickness. However, a few centres used different materials than those specified in the practical activity (using brass instead of mild steel).

A few centres used incorrect materials, which meant that candidates could not join components as required by the assessment. Centres must make sure they give candidates the correct materials so that they can access all marks for manufacturing the product.

A few centres assessed functional sizes inconsistently. Centres must assess candidates using five of the dimensions from the table in the practical activity assessment task, selecting at least one from each area. Centres must indicate on the assessment record for functional dimensions which functional dimensions they have selected for assessment. These functional dimensions must be consistent for all candidates in the group and centres must make candidates aware of them before they start the assessment.

Assessment judgements

Most centres made fair and accurate assessment judgements. They were confident in judging the evidence and correctly applying the marking instructions, including for the new case study.

Some centres used the practical activity assessment record more effectively than others. Centres that included detailed commentary made it easier for visiting verifiers to understand how their assessors awarded marks, resulting in a smooth verification process. In contrast, some centres provided very limited commentary, which made their assessment judgements more difficult to verify.

Most centres used the Understanding Standards videos on how to apply each section of the marking instructions for manufacturing the product. This is good practice as it helps to ensure correct assessment judgements.

Some centres incorrectly awarded marks for independence of work. Assessors cannot award full marks for independence to any incomplete section. For example, if the cab component is missing, candidates cannot achieve full marks in bench work, fabrication, and finishing. Similarly, candidates cannot achieve full marks in the finishing section if they have not attempted to finish all components.

The mark awarded for independence should reflect the quantity and quality of the work produced. Centres should refer to the Understanding Standards videos for detailed guidance on applying marks in this area.

Many candidates did not gain finishing marks because they poorly prepared their component parts. Teachers and lecturers should make sure that candidates understand the standard of finish expected at National 5 level. This includes appropriate deburring and polishing to remove scratches and process marks. If a candidate does not attempt to prepare components for finishing or assembly, they will receive no marks for this.

A few centres marked the log book leniently. At these centres, candidate responses were often too vague and did not reference specific checks for using the machines and tools listed. Some candidates referred to actions that were carried out by the teacher; all checks should be carried out by the candidate. Some candidates also referenced personal protective equipment, where their responses should have been for the machine or tool care and maintenance. Centres should refer to the Understanding Standards log book examples.

General comments

Centres must use the practical activity marking instructions to assess candidates' work. Centres can use their own recording documents; however, they must not use spreadsheet formulae instead of the marking instructions when they are marking the manufacturing the product section.

A few centres used a spreadsheet, which led to two issues. Firstly, the spreadsheet calculated a final mark for each area in each section of the marking instructions. This approach is not appropriate, as some aspects of candidates' work are not directly comparable. For example, the spreadsheet awarded candidates the same marks for positioning and drilling a hole as for deburring that hole. These are not equivalent in the practical activity marking instructions.

Secondly, errors occurred when transferring marks from the spreadsheet to the candidate assessment record and then to the Verification Sampling Form. As a result, more than one centre had to amend marks that they had already submitted.

Centres must check every mark awarded, as well as the totals, before completing the Verification Sampling Form. Centres must include this checking process in their internal verification procedures.

Arithmetical errors contributed to some candidates receiving incorrect marks and, in some cases, resulted in centres receiving an overall 'not accepted' verification decision.

To help the verification process, centres should make sure that any non-permanent mechanical joints, such as internal and external threads, are easily disassembled.

Most centres had evidence of internal verification at most stages. Some centres had comments from both the internal assessor and internal verifier for each section.

Where the marks differ, the final assessment judgement must be clear. The internal assessor and internal verifier should agree the final mark through discussion and by referring to the marking instructions.