National Qualifications

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2024–25

Skills for Work Engineering Skills

VG 412

Skills for Work Courses

National 5 Skills for Work: Engineering Skills C253 75

National 4 Skills for Work: Engineering Skills C243 74

General comments

Seven centres were visited as part of this session's external verification activity.

Six out of the seven centres visited delivered the National 5 qualification and only one was delivering the National 4 qualification.

Course arrangements, unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

External verifiers noted that centres had master folders (some electronic and some paper-based) that contained unit specifications, current assessment paperwork and internal verification documentation.

All the centres that were verified this year delivered the course at their centre and did not use any partnership arrangements. All training and assessment was conducted on site.

There was a mixture of paper and electronic assessment portfolios. All were used effectively by candidates to record their assessment activity.

External verifiers commented of how well some of the electronic portfolios on Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams were used. Deliverers also commented that their candidates preferred using the electronic portfolios to collate their assessment materials. Electronic portfolios were especially helpful when compiling photographic evidence.

Evidence requirements

Most centres used with the SQA-devised National Assessment Bank materials (NABs) or centre-devised assessment instruments that had been prior verified.

All centres used assessment instruments that allowed for a valid assessment approach.

Administration of assessments

All centres had adequate controls relating to the administration of assessments.

Most are held electronically in secure folders.

Assessment instruments are typically provided to candidates at the beginning of the delivery of the unit. Assessment activity is then progressively completed by the candidates, and some centres record the candidate progression through the use of a running record. It was identified that, in some cases, this could be an area of improvement for some centres as they should ensure that assessors are aware of what candidates had completed and when.

Overall assessment

This could be identified as an area of strength in this qualification.

Across all of the external verification reports, the external verifiers had very positive comments relating to centre assessment decisions and candidate feedback.

Verification

This was another area of strength. None of the external verifiers identified any issues relating to internal verification during this session's visits. Many commented on how effective the internal verification processes of the centres were, specifically regarding the quality of the internal verifier judgements and the identification of corrective measures.

Areas of good practice reported on during session 2024–25

Numerous areas of good practice were identified by external verifiers.

In addition to this, it was clear that centres (and their candidates) found value in this qualification and its progression routes.

Specific areas for improvement reported during session 2024–25

There were a few minor areas of improvement notified by the external verifiers, but these largely related to centre housekeeping activities (to ensure that all assessment and internal verification records were kept up to date, or to ensure that all candidate evidence was clearly labelled and identifiable) and to remain familiar with verification process and procedures.

Centres are always reminded of the value of the internal verification toolkit: https://www.sqa.org.uk/IVtoolkit/.