



**Scottish Vocational Qualifications and Regulated Qualifications for
England and Wales**

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2021

Construction (Plant & Ops)

**Construction Plant Operations
(OFQUAL)**

Verification group numbers: 186 and 482

Introduction

Due to COVID-19, all verification visits this year were carried out virtually using Microsoft Teams. A reduced sample was selected for verification.

This is a combined report for both verification groups 186 and 482. The report has been written to provide centres with evidence of how all approved centres are complying with the quality assurance criteria for qualification verification. Centres are encouraged to consider how the comments might help improve their own procedures.

The report covers the qualifications for both groups listed below:

Verification group 186

GL4V 22 SVQ 2 Controlling Lifting Operations: Slinger/Signaller (Construction) at SCQF level 5
GC71 23 SVQ 3 Controlling Lifting Operations: Supervising Lifts (Construction) at SCQF level 7
GH0K 24 SVQ 4 Controlling Lifting Operations: Planning Lifts (Construction) at SCQF level 8
GM7D 22 SVQ in Plant Operations (Construction) at SCQF level 5
GM46 22 SVQ 2 in Construction Plant or Machinery Maintenance at SCQF level 5
GM47 23 SVQ 3 in Construction Plant or Machinery Maintenance at SCQF level 6
GM42 22 SVQ 2 Demolition (Construction): Plant at SCQF level 5

Verification group 482

GR06 68 Level 2 Diploma in Controlling Lifting Operations – Slinger/Signaller (Construction)
GJ51 80 Level 4 Diploma in Controlling Lift Operations – Supervising Lifts (Construction)
GR07 83 Level 5 Diploma in Controlling Lifting Operations – Planning Lifts (Construction)
GR19 68 Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Plant Operations (Construction)
GR18 66 Level 2 NVQ Certificate in Plant Operations (Construction)
GD3M 60 Level 2 Diploma in Plant Operations – General (Construction)

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.

Verification visits confirmed that all assessors and internal verifiers had the required occupational experience and that they either had or were working towards the relevant academic qualifications in line with the requirements of the current assessment strategy. Staff records also showed a wide range of occupational certificates of achievement within the plant operations sector.

Centres provided records of associated continuing professional development in line with lead body requirements to maintain the necessary occupational competences. A few centres continued to provide evidence of continuing professional development in an ad-hoc manner. These centres were provided with guidance and exemplars of how to record their activities in a more professional and standardised format.

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

Assessment for the operatives' awards for plant and slinger/signaller and lift supervisor continues to be carried out on live clients' sites using the clients' equipment and resources. The nature of these sites and the progressive procedures adopted there, along with the most current equipment and resources, ensure that the best environment for assessment to take place is maintained.

The lift planning award is based around the completion and implementation of lift plans which must always take into consideration the changes in equipment, operational procedures, and diverse situations. All of these elements ensure that the assessment materials are constantly under review.

Verification visits provided evidence that all centres ensure that they have the ability and resources to provide adequate learning opportunities, and can provide the most effective assessment materials to ensure candidates can achieve their individual awards.

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 use some form of procedure to identify individual candidate prior achievements and development needs. This is usually done at the induction stage. The majority of centres use a basic induction checklist with a few using a detailed structured skills and experience appraisal matched against the requirements of the award.

A few centres have been encouraged where necessary to further develop their induction to include confirmation of candidate employment details and time frames, and identification of special support or guidance needs to ensure the candidate has the maximum opportunity to achieve the qualification.

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

The nature of the industry makes it difficult to have fixed programmed contact for the majority of candidates. However, centres continue to be very adaptable in their processes to ensure that contact is maintained between the candidates and the assessment staff.

All centres do record contact between assessors and candidates within their portfolios. There was clear evidence of direct observation of work activity in the workplace and one-to-one contact between the assessors and candidates in their live working sites. It is also at this time that the majority of centres record assessment reviews with their candidates.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

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

All centres' quality assurance systems and documentation confirm that assessment and verification arrangements are being carried out in compliance with qualification requirements.

There was evidence of internal verifiers providing support to the assessors over the range of qualifications, with positive monitoring and feedback.

There was also evidence at all centres that standardisation was being implemented either through internal verification records or specific standardisation events.

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

All centres have developed assessment materials directly in line with the qualification and unit specifications and the SQA assessor guidelines. These were valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair, and therefore provided an effective method of assessment.

All centres now use witness testimonies and professional discussions to supplement the current assessment materials as these have become mandatory under the new assessment strategy for Plant and Lifting Operations.

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

All centres assess candidates through direct observation on a one-to-one basis in their individual live working environments. Knowledge assessment is also assessed on a one-to-one basis. These approaches ensure that these assessments are individual to each candidate.

Where candidates provide additional secondary evidence, this is authenticated in almost all centres by the candidate signing a declaration to validate the evidence that has been submitted. Centres that have not been using these declarations have been advised to implement them.

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

All centres have fully qualified experienced internal verifiers and assessors who comply with their assessment and verification procedures. During verification throughout this period there was clear evidence of consistent assessment decisions being made due to the internal verification procedures and standardisation events of individual centres.

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

All centres are aware of the SQA policies for retention of candidate evidence and retention of assessment records. However, for their own procedures, almost all centres retain portfolio evidence well in excess of the requirements.

There was also evidence that candidate portfolios are controlled with access only being provided to the relevant staff who require to see them.

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

All centres provided evidence of minutes of meetings where the outcomes of verification visits are disseminated to the appropriate staff. Those centres that received action plans during their verification visits resolved the issues within the agreed timescales.

Areas of good practice reported by qualification verifiers

There were no areas where good practice was highlighted this year.

Specific areas for development

The following areas for development were reported during session 2020–21:

- ◆ The recording of CPD to evaluate what was done, why it was done and how it will be used to develop the individuals within their specific roles in the assessment process
- ◆ Centres should follow the guidelines document when carrying out a professional discussion to confirm the previous experience of the candidates