

Criteria for National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)



July 2011

Ofqual/11/4883

Contents

The criteria.....	2
Introduction	2
Content	2
Assessment	2
Reporting	3

The criteria

Introduction

1. The following criteria will be used as the basis for the development and accreditation of all National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs).
2. NVQ criteria were previously published within *The Statutory Regulation of External Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (2004).

Content

3. NVQs must consist of the relevant units taken from the National Occupational Standards which are developed by the appropriate sector skills council (SSC) or sector body. These should be approved by the UK Coordinating Group on behalf of the National Occupational Standards Board.

Assessment

4. Assessment in NVQs must implement the assessment strategies specified by the appropriate SSC or sector body and approved by the regulatory authorities.
5. The specified assessment strategies must enable the qualification to attest to competence in the workplace by incorporating the following requirements:
 - 5.1 application of the specified skills, knowledge and understanding to the standards required in the workplace;
 - 5.2 specification of the type and amount of evidence to be collected for assessment purposes;
 - 5.3 identification of any aspects of the National Occupational Standards that must be assessed through performance in the workplace;
 - 5.4 clarification of the extent to which simulated working conditions may be used in assessment, and of any required characteristics of the simulations, including definitions of what might constitute realistic working environments;
 - 5.5 specification of the occupational expertise of assessors, internal verifiers and external verifiers.
6. Awarding organisations must maintain a register of all their external verifiers and provide such information to the regulatory authorities on request.

7. For assessment in Welsh, awarding organisations must take account of the guidance material produced by The Department for Education and Skills (DfES (Wales)).

Reporting

8. An awarding organisation must put in place those arrangements for reporting that allow for the recognition of NVQ units awarded by other awarding organisations, where the units form part of the NVQs.

We wish to make our publications widely accessible. Please contact us if you have any specific accessibility requirements.

First published by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in 2011

© Crown copyright 2011

You may re-use this publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the [Open Government Licence](#). To view this licence, [visit The National Archives](#); or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU; or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is also available on our website at www.ofqual.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at:

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	
Spring Place	2nd Floor
Coventry Business Park	Glendinning House
Herald Avenue	6 Murray Street
Coventry CV5 6UB	Belfast BT1 6DN

Telephone 0300 303 3344

Textphone 0300 303 3345

Helpline 0300 303 3346