



# NQ verification 2023–24 round 2

## Qualification verification summary report

### Section 1: verification group information

<b>Verification group name:</b>	<b>Practical Woodworking</b>
<b>Verification activity:</b>	<b>Visit</b>
<b>Date published:</b>	<b>June 2024</b>

### National Course components verified

<b>Unit code</b>	<b>Unit level</b>	<b>Unit title</b>
C862 75	National 5	Practical Woodworking: Practical Activity — IACCA

### Section 2: comments on assessment

#### Assessment approaches

All centres used the practical activity for session 2023–24, held on SQA’s secure website, which was the only valid assessment this session.

Centres are reminded they must assess ‘measuring and marking’ before candidates cut joints. This allows candidates to carry out any remedial action, and to cut correctly measured and marked out joints. In addition, candidates must not apply any wood filler to joints prior to internal and external verification, as this may affect the ability to make judgements on assessor decisions. Under no circumstances can centres alter the lengths or widths of material.

A few centres used material of a different thickness than in the original working drawings. Where possible, centres should source the material thickness specified in the assessment task. Changes to thickness are allowed by exception, but centres must amend the working drawings to take account of this. If the working drawings are not amended, then candidates cannot get any marks for ‘measuring and marking’, as all the sizes will be wrong relative to the thickness of the material used.

Centres must provide candidates' working drawings without any alterations (except where changes to thickness are necessary), and they cannot give candidates additional drawings, dimensions, or information.

Candidates cannot use machines to cut joints (unless specified by SQA in the practical activity assessment task).

Instructions for teachers and lecturers are provided every year within the practical activity assessment task, and centres are reminded to read these carefully as they may change from task to task.

The quality of the practical element of the assessment task was completed to a very high standard, but the candidate log book was often incomplete or inadequate, and not to National 5 standard. Centres should devote time and consideration to this, as the first two areas of the log book provide up to 10 marks of the overall mark for the practical activity. The third area 'Safe working procedures' is completed by the assessor and provides another 5 marks.

The completion of the logbook is an individual activity — as with every aspect of the practical activity assessment, there is no group working (nor should it be a teacher-led activity). The information in the logbook should be in learners' own words. Centres are reminded that statements used in the log book must be the candidate's own work, and cohorts of candidates cannot provide the same statements or copy statements straight from exemplar log books. All tools described in these statements must be in the course assessment specification.

We encourage all centres to continue to make use of the Understanding Standards website. This invaluable resource provides exemplification and supporting commentary of completed log books. Videos are also available on how to apply the marking instructions for the practical activity.

## **Assessment judgements**

Most centres made assessment judgements that were accurate, consistent, reliable and in line with the national standard.

Centres are reminded to include detailed commentary when awarding marks, as this supports both internal and external verification activity.

There were some instances where centres awarded full marks for 'Independence of work' when the activity was incomplete. The mark a candidate receives must reflect both the quantity and the quality of the work produced. Full marks cannot be awarded for incomplete work.

When making assessment judgements on 'application of finish', assessors must consider the standard expected at National 5 level. Candidates should take care when choosing an appropriate finish, to avoid blemishes such as:

- ◆ runs that are visible
- ◆ evidence of raised grain

- ◆ an accumulation of wax
- ◆ brush marks that can be seen
- ◆ uneven staining

Candidates are free to choose any of the finishes listed in the National 5 Practical Woodworking Course Specification. Regardless of the finish chosen, candidates must ensure they apply their finish to all components of the finished product and with no blemishes, to achieve full marks. Centres are reminded that where the marking instruction states 'All...', this refers to everything the candidate is required to do, and not everything that the candidate has done.

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

Centres engaged well with external verification and found the process supportive and transparent.

Most centres recorded their assessment judgements clearly using the candidate assessment record. In some instances, however, no assessment judgements were given, or there were no comments to justify or explain assessment judgements. This is an integral part of both the assessment and verification processes, and centres should record this in a suitable format.

Most centres demonstrated clear evidence of effective internal verification policies. Some new centres presenting candidates for this course chose to work with colleagues from other centres, to help the internal verification process. Centres are reminded that they must have an internal verification policy, as it is a condition of approval to offer SQA qualifications. The [NQ internal verification toolkit](#) provides more information and support.

### **Session 2024–25**

The National 5 practical activity changes every session.

For session 2024–25, candidates must complete course assessments for both the question paper and the annually-issued practical activity. We will publish a new practical activity 'Practical activity assessment task: storage box' on SQA's secure website by the end of October 2024. This is the only valid assessment for session 2024–25.

The parts and materials document is already published on the National 5 Practical Woodworking subject page.