



# INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE Procedure and Strategies



**Reviewed: May 2022**

## INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURE

### Role of the Internal Quality Assurer

The Internal Quality Assurer is an important role as it maintains and monitors the quality and assurance of qualification and unit delivery and certification and is the main contact between the centre and Awarding Organisation in relation to monitoring activities.

Within the role, the Internal Quality Assurer is expected to:

- a. Develop and follow internal policies, procedures and documentation for the carrying out and maintenance of quality systems in line with Awarding Organisation requirements
- b. Ensure all Assessors hold and maintain the required qualifications and occupational expertise to deliver the qualifications and units they have been assigned to
- c. Provide support to Assessors in relation to procedures and policies for the delivery of the qualifications and units they are assigned to
- d. Identify training needs and provide ongoing training to Assessors to continually improve the standard of qualification and unit delivery
- e. Co-ordinate the timely registration and certification claims for learners
- f. Maintain appropriate records of quality assurance, assessment, registration and certification activities in line with Awarding Organisation requirements
- g. Ensure sampling plans take into account the ratio of learners per Assessor per qualification to meet the quality assurance requirements to cover all units delivered within a 12-month period
- h. Facilitate standardisation activities to support the continuous improvement of qualification and unit delivery
- i. Ensure all assessment documentation, maintained by Assessors, is complete, up-to-date and legible
- j. Ensure conflicts of interest are identified and addressed, including not allowing the quality assurance of own assessment work or cross quality assurance where two people quality assure each others work
- k. Conduct observations of Assessors conducting the assessment process
- l. Conduct learner interviews to monitor and analyse the quality of the assessment process and learner journey
- m. Provide the required information to SFEDI Awards to aid and facilitate monitoring activities as required
- n. Impart information and feedback resulting from monitoring activities and ensure all actions are addressed by the indicated timescales

## Sampling Strategy

### Sampling Assessments

Two forms of sampling will be carried out to ensure that quality assurance is maintained. These are:

- a. **Interim sampling:** dipping into the assessment process whilst the learner is at different stages. This ensures that the assessment of the learner is proceeding satisfactorily following the principles of plan, judge and feedback.
- b. **Summative sampling:** involves the Internal Quality Assurer reviewing the quality of the assessment decisions by the Assessor. The IQA should be able to follow an audit trail, which clearly demonstrates that the Assessor has checked the validity, authenticity, reliability, currency and sufficiency of the evidence presented.

The IQA must record and report all sampling undertaken in sufficient detail to be able to justify the decision made. IQA reports will be produced for all sampling and must be signed by both the Assessor and IQA.

Sampling plans must include sampling of all types of:

- a. Learner
- b. Assessors
- c. Methods of assessment
- d. Evidence or Elements
- e. Records
- f. Assessment sites

A sampling plan will be maintained for all samplings planned and conducted showing the following information:

- a. Learner name
- b. Qualification Title
- c. Registration number
- d. Start date
- e. Planned end date
- f. Planned interim sampling updated to show actual sampling undertaken including unit number and type of assessment sampled
- g. Planned summative sampling updated to show actual sampling undertaken including unit number and type of assessment sampled

## Sampling Rates

Different rates for sampling will be adopted dependent on the experience of the Assessor delivering the qualification or unit they have been assigned to as follows:

Category	Required Activities
Newly qualified Assessors or Assessors new to the centre or those Assessors who are continually falling short of the standard required	100% sampling rate
	Assessor observation every 3-months
Assessors who are in need of development but often meet the standard required	50% sampling rate
	Assessor observation every 6-months
Assessors who are experienced with the qualification or unit they have been assigned to and continually meet the standard required	25% sampling rate
	Assessor observation every 12-months

The rates above may be subject to change for instance:

- Where a qualification is new to the centre the first 2 cohorts will be sampled at a 100% rate unless otherwise authorised by the Awarding Organisation
- Where the sampling strategy of the Awarding Organisation overrides that of the centre due to the risk rating or actions resulting from monitoring activities
- Where a contractual requirement requires additional sampling to take place (N.B. this will not override the requirements of the previous two instances where this sampling rate would require a lesser sampling rate to be adopted)

## Standardising Assessment and Quality Assurance Judgments

Standardization (sometimes referred to as benchmarking or moderating) is an important part of the duties of the Internal Quality Assurer.

Regular meetings will be held to conduct standardization exercises:

- Meetings to be held on a quarterly basis (more frequent as required or on release of new standards)
- Meetings to cover feedback from Awarding Organisation monitoring activities, assessment good practice and interpretation of standards and qualification specifications
- Meetings to cover feedback from learners as to satisfaction levels of both assessment practice and sessions attended
- Exercises using real learners' evidence to be used in order to standardise the assessment decision process

Minutes of meetings to be produced and copies kept for viewing during SFEDI Awards monitoring activities

## Managing the Quality

The systems and processes described above have been designed to maintain the quality of assessment and to ensure that we adhere to the requirements of the Awarding Organisation.

For external monitoring activities, the Internal Quality Assurer is required to have the following information readily available:

- Centre File containing all documents
- Numbers of current registered learners per qualification/unit
- Internal Quality Assurer and Assessor details – especially CVs, up to date CPD records and current Assessor caseloads
- Copies of relevant staff certificates
- Assessment records and plans
- Internal Quality Assurance sampling strategy
- Internal Quality Assurance records including feedback to Assessors, Assessor observations and learner interviews
- Learner evidence records and documentary evidence
- Records of claims for certification

The Internal Quality Assurer will be responsible for ensuring that all action points raised through Awarding Organisation monitoring activities are addressed within the specified timescale(s).

Claims for certification can only be made by an Internal Quality Assurer holding the appropriate qualification or directive from the Awarding Organisation.

## Assessor Observations

The Internal Quality Assurer will complete observations of delivery and assessment to ensure the management of the quality of the programme

- Direct observation of the Assessor in action and giving feedback on performance
- Direct observation of an Assessor's planning and review activities with learners

These observations will be conducted, at a minimum, on the timeframes listed earlier in this document and clear evidence of the conducting of these will be maintained for viewing by the Awarding Organisation during monitoring activities.

Evidence of the enactment of any associated actions will be recorded and kept within the quality assurance folder for viewing by the Awarding Organisation during monitoring activities.

## Learner Questionnaires

The Internal Quality Assurer will complete questionnaires to gather feedback to ensure the management of the quality of the programme. These will be planned to be conducted, at a minimum, on a 6-monthly basis so that each qualification is subject to learner questionnaires being conducted every 6-months.

The results of the questionnaires will be analysed and improvement plans developed and enacted in order to promote the continued improvement of the delivery and certification of qualifications and units within the centre.

Copies of the analysis of results and resulting improvement plans will be kept within the quality assurance folder for viewing by the Awarding Organisation during monitoring activities.

## INTERNAL VERIFICATION SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECK LIST

Ref	Key Indicator	Met	Action
1	Internal Verifier CVs are checked and validated to ensure occupational background at an appropriate level in the particular sector as required by the Awarding Body and SSC/B [copy of Quality Assurance certificates held]		
2	A system of professional updating is in place for all Internal Verifiers and records kept		
3	Newly appointed Internal Verifiers are monitored on a regular basis to ensure their understanding of the standards is thorough		
4	Training/development is carried out to address identified needs of all Internal Verifiers and development plans kept		
5	All Internal Verifiers have a clear understanding of their role in quality assurance		
6	There is an explicit system in place which ensures that validation of summative decisions is made by qualified Internal Verifiers who have not made the assessment decisions		
7	All claims for certification are validated by an qualified Internal Verifier		
8	There is a system in place for trainee Internal Verifiers to work with/shadow qualified verifiers		
9	Trainee Internal Verifiers have clear target dates to achieve the Quality Assurance		

	qualification and their progress towards achievement is monitored		
10	A written sampling strategy is maintained by all the Internal Verifiers for each programme		
11	A clear and feasible rationale exists for sampling		
12	The strategy ensures that all Assessors are included, all Units and a range of assessment methods (appropriate to the N/SVQ) are covered		
13	Sampling is ongoing, not end-loaded		
14	The system responds to particular problems or needs identified by the Internal Verifier		
15	Records of sampling, including monitoring assessment practice, are maintained		
16	A named officer takes responsibility for ensuring that each programme has a sufficient number of Internal Verifiers to fully support the Assessors		
17	The ratio of Assessors to Internal Verifiers is appropriate for the award/level/situation		
18	Assessor CVs are checked and validated to ensure occupational competence at an appropriate level in the particular sector as required by the Awarding Body and SSC/B [copy Assessor qualification validated and held on file]		
19	A system of professional updating is in place for all Assessors and Personal Development Plans kept		
20	Trainee Assessors have clear and realistic target dates to achieve Assessor qualifications and their progress towards achievement is monitored		
21	Newly appointed Assessors to the Centre are monitored on a regular basis to ensure consistency with the assessment team		
22	All summative decisions are made by qualified Assessors		
23	Internal Verifiers positively encourage Assessors to discuss assessment issues and meet with them on a regular basis		
24	All Assessors are monitored and given the type and level of support which is suited to their needs		

25	Assessors are given informal and formal feedback which is constructive and relevant		
26	Assessment time and resource implications have been specifically considered and reviewed at regular intervals		
27	The senior Internal Verifier has access to required resources to maintain quality of the N/SVQ programmes		
28	The senior Internal Verifier has sufficient management status to influence decisions regarding N/SVQ delivery and implementation, including resource allocation		
29	All the Internal Verifiers have sufficient time, agreed with senior management, to devote to their N/SVQ responsibilities		
30	The senior Internal Verifier regularly carries out selfassessment of the Centre's performance against the requirements of the QCA NVQ Code of Practice		

Internal Verifier Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

