

## NQF NVQ 10-week Rule and QCF NVQs

### Introduction

Edexcel qualifications are currently being accredited within the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The *Regulatory Arrangements for the Qualifications and Credit Framework, 2008*, apply to all National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and competence-based qualifications accredited within the QCF. These regulatory arrangements introduce changes to the way in which Edexcel enacts the external quality assurance processes for centres approved to offer Edexcel NVQs.

### QCF NVQs

The *Regulatory Arrangements for the Qualifications and Credit Framework, 2008*, supersede the previous regulations:

‘These arrangements cover all the requirements applying to organisations operating within the QCF, the units and rules of combination that they may develop and the credits and qualifications they may award. The arrangements do not therefore rely on any other regulatory criteria or codes of practice, although the qualifications regulators may also from time to time produce requirements, information and guidance for framework users intended to support the effective regulation of the QCF and the operation of the qualifications system. Currently the only such documents are the Regulatory principles for e-assessment, to which awarding organisations should refer if they intend to use this type of assessment, and *Operating rules for using the term NVQ in a QCF qualification title*, which organisations should use if they wish to title their qualifications in this way’.

Although under these arrangements there is a requirement that ‘*The awarding organisation must have procedures in place for issuing qualification certificates that ensure there are safeguards against fraudulent or mistaken claims for certificates*’, there is no specific reference to a 10-week rule in either the *Regulatory Arrangements for the Qualifications and Credit Framework* or the *Operating rules for using the term NVQ in a QCF qualification title*.

Edexcel recognises that qualification achievement in less than 10 weeks may arise through the:

- smaller qualification sizes introduced by the QCF
- registration of individuals that have already acquired skills and occupational competence and do not require further development.

However, Edexcel continues to emphasise the responsibility of approved centres to register individuals immediately on enrolment on to QCF NVQ programmes and according to the dates provided in the Edexcel Information Manual, updated annually.

All claims for certification must be supported by evidence for each candidate that is:

- valid - relevant to the standards for which competence is claimed
- authentic - produced by the candidate
- reliable - accurately reflects the level of performance which has been consistently demonstrated by the candidate
- current - sufficiently recent for confidence to be held the same level of skill, understanding and knowledge exists at the time of claim
- sufficient - meets in full ALL the requirements of the standards

In order to address the regulatory changes whilst retaining the safeguards against fraudulent or mistaken claims for certification:

- Edexcel will remove the rule that prevents centres from making QCF NVQ certification claims via Edexcel Online within 10 weeks of a candidates being registered
- The Edexcel Quality Standards team (QS) will continue to monitor the QCF NVQ certificate claims that are made within 10 weeks of candidates being registered, through a weekly data query
- The Standards Verifier (SV) allocated to a centre will be alerted to QCF NVQ certificate claims that are made within 10 weeks of candidates being registered
- QS will raise the matter with the centre Quality Nominee, only when certification claims for QCF NVQs being made within 10 weeks of registration indicate that such claims may be made fraudulently or mistakenly
- QS may suspend certification for a programme to secure the integrity of the awarding of Edexcel QCF NVQs.

### NQF NVQs

The procedures that Edexcel currently has in place for the implementation of the 10-week rule must remain in place for the NQF NVQs:

*'The NVQ code of practice will continue to apply to all NVQs in the NQF until their last certification end date. These NVQs will continue to be part of the NQF and therefore must meet the requirements that applied when they were accredited - The statutory regulation of external qualifications 2004 (QCA/04/1293) and the NVQ code of practice. This means that there will be a transition period during which awarding organisations and their centres, operating in both the QCF and the NQF, are required to work with two sets of regulatory requirements - one for QCF qualifications that include 'NVQ' in their title and one for NVQs in the NQF.'*

NVQ Assessment and Delivery Manager - Peter Jackson. April 2010.