

Annex B2

Additional Information to the Consolidated Assessment Strategy from the Awarding Body Forum for Plant Operations

Clarification and guidance notes

Aspects to be assessed through performance in the workplace

This additional information has been produced to ensure consistency in aspects to be assessed through performance in the workplace as described in paragraph 2.1 of the ConstructionSkills' Consolidated Assessment Strategy. This should help awarding organisations incorporate the guidance into their assessment methodology for Plant Operations units and qualifications with NVQ in the QCF title and SVQ in the SCQF.

Additional requirements for assessment in the workplace

Direct evidence produced through normal performance in the workplace is the primary source for meeting the requirements. This direct evidence must be met using a combination of the following methods.

- direct observation by the assessor
- witness testimony by an expert witness related to the occupational area
- professional discussion.

Workplace evidence must be supported by the required evidence of knowledge and understanding gained from at least three month's work-based experience.

Occupational expertise requirements for assessors

This additional information has been produced to ensure consistency in interpreting the occupational expertise requirements for assessors as described in paragraph 4.1 of the ConstructionSkills' Consolidated Assessment Strategy. This should help awarding organisations incorporate relevant parts of the assessment strategy principles' requirements in their documentation for Plant Operations units and qualifications with NVQ in the QCF title and SVQs.

Additional requirements for assessors of plant operations

Assessors must be competent and have an up-to-date working knowledge of the occupation and sector. Assessors must have had active involvement in plant operations and on each endorsement for which they wish to assess. The awarding organisation must ensure that all assessors are competent on each endorsement for which they intend to assess in accordance with requirements of the qualification regulators' guidance for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Supplementary guidance

In order to meet contractual and regulative requirements, many sectors of industry require operators of plant and equipment to possess certification from recognised industry approved bodies. The awarding organisation should ideally encourage all assessors to hold appropriate registration cards or certificates to support industry initiatives for a qualified workforce.

Where plant operating experience was gained within the armed forces, applicants for assessor status should ideally gain external work experience within industry, or be able to demonstrate knowledge of relevant industry working practices outside the armed forces.