

# Criteria for National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)



July 2011

Ofqual/11/4883

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## 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.

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

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