

Inspection and assessment: Non-metallics

Feedback from Consultative Panel, October 2005

The following is the feedback from the Consultative Panel:

In terms of the suite of qualifications dealing with the Inspection and Assessment of Non-Metallics, the following was noted:

- The qualification was considered very generically written, meaning that it could be applied more widely than just 'non-metallics'. It was clarified that the Plastics SGB looked at a range of materials under the term 'non-metallics' to increase its use throughout the organising field.
- Concern was expressed about the fact that the unit standards were written in the first person. Members felt that the unit standard would be better written in the third person. It was stated that this matter had been raised as a concern in the past, and that it had not been resolved to date since the regulations and guidelines do not specify any accepted format. It was noted that the guidelines on writing unit standards and qualifications had been revised, and that consultative panel members would be given an opportunity to comment on them in the near future.
- Learning assumed to be in place was considered lacking.
- No modifiers were used in the unit standards, and should be included to increase ease of use.
- The outcomes appeared to be a checklist of steps in a process, and not specific outcomes. It was clarified that the SGB feels that assessment of learners is part of an integrated process. Assessment criteria are presented in three categories - results, tangibles, and understanding - that are listed individually. Modifying phrases are included in specific outcomes, meaning that they do not need to be captured in assessment criteria.
- Although allowances could be made in terms of the formatting of the unit standards, it would be necessary to ensure that the content makes sense. An example was noted, namely 'Sufficient detail: the amount of detail will be appropriate to the level of the personnel' which would make more sense if it were clearly specified.
- Although the particular nature of the industry and its practice should be acknowledged, it would also be necessary to ensure that the accepted format is retained to some extent. SAQA should liaise with the SGB to come to an agreed way forward, giving the SGB time to state its position.
- The use and impact of manufacturing on the environment, as well as issues of sustainability, was noted. It was asked whether these aspects, as well as waste management as it relates to the end user, should be included in the qualification. It was stated that these aspects had been addressed within the Higher Education arena, and through inputs from ECSA. Learning assumed to be in place should mention specific skills, and not previous qualifications.

Regards.

Thapelo Madibeng

Co-ordinator: NSB06 Manufacturing, Engineering & Technology (DSSD) 1067 Arcadia Str, Hatfield, 0083

Tel:+27 (0) 12 431 - 5076 Facsimile:+27 (0) 12 431 - 5144

Cell: 082 5020 731

E-mail: tmadibeng@saqa.co.za