

The use of non NVQ evidence for the Assessor (A1 and A2) and Internal Verifier (V2) awards.

An introduction

We are often asked if we can produce a list of awards and qualifications which could be used as non NVQ evidence. The simple answer is no. The reason for this is that the A1/2 and V1 awards are built around the NVQ framework and any other way of achieving them has to be an exception. All applications are considered as individual applications and considered not only for the qualification content but the context in which they are delivered. We have to remember that an assessor or internal verifier gaining their award using non NVQ evidence is approved to assess and internally verify NVQs.

So what are looking for?

- That the non NVQ evidence is an NVQ lookalike and resembles an NVQ in style and content even though the name may be different.
- The quality assurance framework is similar to an NVQ so that a candidate achieving an A1/A2 or V1 can transfer their skills when required to assessing and internally verifying NVQs

Can you give me more detail so as I can check my possible application against your requirements?

Checklist

- Is the non NVQ evidence suitable as an NVQ lookalike?
Normally qualifications such as Key Skills and BTECs will not qualify as non NVQ evidence
- Is the evidence gained from the candidate's workplace?
Is the evidence gathered from Real Working Environment (RWE) and subject to all the constraints of an RWE? There are some assessment strategies and sector bodies which allow Realistic Working Environments (eg Hairdressing) Is it naturally occurring evidence? (if it is classroom based or simulated it is probably unsuitable)
- Is the assessment made a judgement of competence?
NVQs are about competence; ability to do the job. So is the candidate able to make those judgements through the proposed programme?
- Is the qualification recognised nationally?
Normally this will mean the qualification is awarded by an awarding body or another similar nationally recognised organisation.

- Is the qualification an NVQ lookalike.

Does it have performance criteria, range/scope statements as well as Knowledge and Understanding statements?

- Are the quality criteria met?

Can the requirements of the Agreed Common Evidence be met?

Will there be the opportunity to implement Independent Assessment?

Will there be the opportunity to apply the use of assessment methods similar to NVQs (remember the A1 requires four different assessment methods including Professional Discussion)?

Is the programme subject to internal verification?

Is the programme subject to external verification?

Does standardisation of assessment decisions take place?

How will the candidate assessor become aware of and keep up to date with NVQ developments and in particular the NVQ Code of Practice?

- Are there any alternatives?

The A1 Assessor's Award is not the only qualification available. There are a number of individual units from the Learning and Development NVQ suite which may be suitable....and NVQs don't have to form the evidence base.

They include -

L6 Develop training programmes

L10 Give presentations to groups

L11 Enable learning through demonstrations and instruction

L20 Support competence in the workplace

The new Preparation for Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector might also be relevant if the requirement is for someone who teaches as well as assesses.