

Report on the alignment of the awards made by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) with the Irish National Framework of Qualifications

1. Recommendation and Conditions of Alignment

Recommendation

It is recommended that those awards made in Ireland by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), for which it has sought alignment, should be aligned with the National Framework of Qualifications, to specific levels as indicated in this report.

Conditions of Alignment

1. SQA may refer to the qualifications indicated in the report as being aligned with the specified levels of the National Framework of Qualifications in Ireland (the NFQ) and recognised as such by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI).
2. If the SQA makes awards in Ireland that are not contained in this report, the SQA undertakes to clearly communicate that such awards are not aligned with the NFQ or recognised as such by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI). This will be clearly stated in all advertisements, marketing and descriptions associated with such awards and the programmes leading to them.
3. SQA will provide the NQAI with the following on an annual basis:
 - a. Information and statistics indicating providers of programmes leading to awards to which the alignment refers, as well as number of learners in Ireland who commence such programmes and the number of awards made
 - b. Information and statistics indicating providers of programmes leading to non-aligned awards, as well as number of learners in Ireland who commence such programmes and the number of such awards made
 - c. The outcomes of any external quality assurance review to which the awarding body is subject

- d. Any material change to the quality assurance procedures of the awarding body which impact in any way on the provision in Ireland of the awards to which the alignment refers
 - e. Examples of marketing of awards aligned with the NFQ / not aligned with the NFQ
 - f. Any new awards which the awarding body intends to offer in Ireland, for which it is seeking alignment or otherwise.
4. SQA will operate procedures which are consistent with the policies of the NQAI in respect of access, transfer and progression and RPL

2. Level Criteria

The criteria used to determine the comparable levels of awards submitted by SQA for alignment with the NFQ are set out in the document entitled - Qualifications can cross boundaries

<http://www.qualificationsrecognition.ie/recognition/pdfs/File.886.en.pdf>

The comparability of the Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework (SCQF) and National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NQF) levels may be summarised as follows.

Scottish Credit & Qualifications Framework		National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland
Access Levels 1 & 2	is comparable to	Level 1
Access Level 3	is comparable to	Level 2
Level 4	is comparable to	Level 3
Level 5	is comparable to	Level 4
Level 6	is comparable to	Level 5
Level 7	is comparable to	Level 6

3. Sources of Evidence and Level Recommendations

Sources of Evidence

All qualifications submitted for alignment in 2008 by SQA were checked against the list of SVQ's published by SQA in the document entitled SVQ Update - December 2007
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/B53920_SVQ_UPDATE_DEC_07.pdf

The qualifications submitted for alignment as part of the second application for alignment by SQA in 2009 were checked against the list of SVQ's published by SQA in the document entitled SVQ Update – June 2009
http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/SVQUpdate.pdf

Level Recommendations

It is recommended that following SQA awards, submitted for alignment during 2008, should be aligned with the NFQ as tabled below.

Title of qualification	Scottish Qualification Reference Number	Notional Learning Hours*	Credit	Scottish Qualification Type	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Level (SCQF)	Irish National Framework of Qualifications Level (NFQ)
SVQ 2 in Laundry Operations	G8C8 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Laundry Service Support	G8C9 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Storage and Warehousing	G7HH 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 3 in Storage and Warehousing	G7HJ 23	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5

The evidence source used to determine the levels of SQA/SVQ awards was a document entitled - Unit Assessment Guidance for SVQs in Learning and Development at Levels 3, 4 and 5. These awards are also listed on the UK - National Database of Accredited Qualifications and this was also referenced to confirm the level of the awards.

http://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/LearningDevCD_sqa_unit_assessment_guidance_db2900.pdf

<http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/qualification/10050176.seo.aspx>

It is recommended that the following SQA qualifications, submitted for alignment during 2009, should be aligned with the NFQ as tabled below.

Title of qualification	Scottish Qualification Reference Number	Notional Learning Hours*	Credit	Scottish Qualification Type	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Level (SCQF)	Irish National Framework of Qualifications Level (NFQ)
SVQ 2 in Food Manufacture: Craft Bakery	G8X8 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Amenity Horticulture	G6X9 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Amenity Horticulture (Nursery)	G6XH 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 1 in Cleaning and Support Services	G5WY 21	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
SVQ 2 in Cleaning and Support Services	G5X4 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Cleaning and Support Services (Building	G5X0 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4

Interiors)						
SVQ 2 in Cleaning and Support Services (Carpets)	G5X7 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Cleaning and support services (Windows)	G5X9 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 1 in Waste Management Operations	G73F 21	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
SVQ 2 in Waste Management Operations	G731 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 1 in Warehousing and Storage	G8W9 21	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
SVQ 2 in Warehousing and Storage	G8WA 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 1 in Hairdressing	G77M 21	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
SVQ 2 in Hairdressing	G77 N 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Nail Services	G7H7 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Beauty therapy (make up)	G7H4 22	Variable, depending on pathway	Variable, depending on pathway	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4

		chosen	chosen			
SVQ 1 in Hospitality: Food preparation and cooking	G82N 21	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
SVQ 2 Food Processing and Cooking	G82V 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 Professional Cookery	G82K 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Professional Cookery (Preparation and cooking)	G82J 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 1 in IT Users	G7JF 21	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
SVQ 2 in IT Users	G7JG 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in General Building Operations (Construction)	G89A 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 1 in Performing Manufacturing Operations	G7E5 21	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
SVQ 2 in Performing Manufacturing Operations	G7E6 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 1 in Manufacturing Textiles	G78N 21	Variable, depending on pathway	Variable, depending on pathway	SVQ	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3

		chosen	chosen			
SVQ 2 in Manufacturing Textiles	G78R 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Cleaning and Support Services (Highways and Land)	G5X5 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Laundry Operations	G8C8 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Laundry Service Support	G8C9 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Machine Printing	G8YK 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Carpentry and Joinery (Construction)	G893 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Barbering	G77J 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 1 in Beauty Therapy	G7GY 21	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
SVQ 2 in Beauty Therapy (Make Up)	G7H4 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 in Jewellery Manufacture	G7JY 22	Variable, depending on	Variable, depending on	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4

		pathway chosen	pathway chosen			
PDA in Management of Continuous Batch Washers	G96R 47	83 hours		Professional Development Award	SCQF Level 7	NFQ Level 6
NPA in Safe System for Unblocking Batch Washers	G96T 46	82 hours		National Progression Award	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5
NPA in Dealing with Solvent Emissions in Dry Cleaning	G8Y7 46	67 hours		National Progression Award	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5
NPA in Safe Operation of Continuous Batch Washers	G8Y6 46	72 hours		National Progression Award	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5
National Certificate in Hospitality	G93V 44		72 credit	National Certificate	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
National Certificate in Digital Media Computing	G8JM 44		12 credit	National Certificate	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
National Certificate in Digital Media Computing	G8JK 45		12 credit	National Certificate	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
National Certificate in Digital Media Computing	G90L 46		12 credit	National Certificate	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5
National Certificate in PC Passport (Beginner)	G8H7 44		18 credit	National Progression Award	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
National Certificate in PC Passport (Intermediate)	G8H9 45		21 credit	National Progression Award	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
National Certificate in PC Passport (Advanced)	G8HA 46		24 credit	National Progression Award	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5
National Progression Award in Digital Literacy	G8HE 43		18 credit	National Progression Award	SCQF Level 3	NFQ Level 2
Internet Safety	F0H5 10		6 credit	Intermediate 1	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3

				(single unit)		
Skills for Work Construction Crafts	C218 10		24 credit	Intermediate 1	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
Skills for Work Construction Crafts	C218 11		24 credit	Intermediate 2	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
National Progression Award in Construction	G8H4 45		30 credit	National Progression Award	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
Skills for Work Engineering Skills	C243 10		24 credit	Intermediate 1	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
Skills for Work Engineering Skills	C253 11		24 credit	Intermediate 2	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
Skills for Work. Practical Experiences: Construction and Engineering	C240 09		18 credit	Access 3	SCQF Level 3	NFQ Level 2
SVQ 2 Dry Cleaning	G8CC 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
SVQ 2 Dry Cleaning Service Support	G8CA 22	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	Variable, depending on pathway chosen	SVQ	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4

It is recommended that the following SQA units, submitted for alignment during 2008, should be aligned with the NFQ as tabled below. Note, the following are units and are not full awards.

Title of unit	Unit Reference Number	Notional Learning Hours*	Scottish Unit Type	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Level (SCQF)	Irish National Framework of Qualifications Level (NFQ)
Unit A1 Assess Candidates Using a Range of Methods SVQ 3	D94 L04		SVQ	SCQF Level 7	NFQ Level 6
Unit A2 Assess	D94 M04		SVQ	SCQF Level 7	NFQ Level 6

Report on alignment of SQA awards made in Ireland to the National Framework of Qualifications – updated 20 November 2009.

Candidates Performance through Observation SVQ 3					
Unit V1 Conduct Internal Quality Assurance of the Assessment Process SVQ 4	D94 P04		SVQ	SCQF Level 7	NFQ Level 6

It is recommended that the following SQA units, submitted for alignment during 2009, should be aligned with the NFQ as tabled below. Note, the following are units and are not full awards.

Title of unit	Unit Reference Number	Notional Learning Hours*	Credit	Scottish Unit Type	Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Level (SCQF)	Irish National Framework of Qualifications Level (NFQ)
Communication	F425	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 3	NFQ Level 2
Information and Communication Technology	F42D	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 3	NFQ Level 2
Numeracy	F42A	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 3	NFQ Level 2
Problem Solving	F42H	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 3	NFQ Level 2
Working with Others	F42M	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 3	NFQ Level 2
Communication	F426	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
Information and Communication Technology	F42E	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
Numeracy	F429	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
Problem Solving	F42J	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
Working with Others	F42N	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 4	NFQ Level 3
Communication	F427	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
Information and	F42F	60	6	Core Skills	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4

Report on alignment of SQA awards made in Ireland to the National Framework of Qualifications
– updated 20 November 2009.

Communication Technology				Unit		
Numeracy	F42B	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
Problem Solving	F42K	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
Working with Others	F42P	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 5	NFQ Level 4
Communication	F428	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5
Information and Communication Technology	F42G	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5
Numeracy	F42C	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5
Problem Solving	F42L	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5
Working with Others	F42R	60	6	Core Skills Unit	SCQF Level 6	NFQ Level 5

* **Notional Learning Hours** include all learning, guided and unguided, including assessment activities and private study

4. Definitions

Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs)

National Progression Awards (NPAs)

Professional Development Awards (PDAs)

PDAs are vocational qualifications, which provide practical opportunities for developing real skills that are valid and relevant to the world of work.

National Certificate