

SQA Accreditation

SVQ Titles and the SCQF

Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

Following discussions with Scottish Government and consultation with representatives of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) and Awarding Bodies, SQA Accreditation's SVQ Titling Policy has been amended. SVQ titles must now include the [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework](#) (SCQF) level where the SVQs have been SCQF credit rated.

The SCQF is well established and is nationally recognised. It helps employers and learners to understand the full range of Scottish qualifications, how qualifications relate to each other and to other forms of learning, and how different types of qualification can contribute to improving the skills of the workforce.

What is the rationale for this change?

Incorporating the SCQF level into SVQ titles will reinforce the already strong position of SVQs in the Scottish qualifications system, and assist in understanding the parity of SVQs with other qualifications. It will also support the Lifelong Learning agenda by clearly demonstrating articulation and progression routes.

Does this mean that SVQs are changing?

No. This change is simply to include the SCQF level within the qualification title when the SVQ has been SCQF credit rated. The assessment arrangements for SVQs will remain unchanged.

What will the new titling convention be?

For those SVQs that have been SCQF credit rated the title should be changed to (for example):

SVQ 2 in Customer Service at SCQF level 5.

The '2' indicates the current SVQ level. The word 'level' has been removed to simplify the title and avoid potential confusion caused by making reference to both the SCQF level and the SVQ level.

Once all SVQs have been SCQF credit rated, the existing SVQ levels will be dropped and the SCQF level will be used to describe the qualification.

When will this change begin?

The change is effective as soon as an SVQ has been SCQF credit rated. This convention should be used as and when SVQs that have been SCQF credit rated are accredited or re-accredited. We do recognise that there may be issues initially for Awarding Bodies with respect to amending or adding

fields in databases and in producing certificates. Whilst Awarding Bodies may not be in a position initially to include the new titling convention on certificates, we ask that they work towards a solution. We also ask that, in the meantime, Awarding Bodies refer to the new title in support material, such as candidate portfolios, or in marketing and promotional material.

Can Awarding Bodies use the SCQF logo?

The SCQF logo can be used with regards to those SVQs that have been credit rated for the SCQF. The SCQF logo, along with the terms and conditions for use, is available from [SQA Accreditation](#).

What if an SVQ is not yet credit rated?

For those SVQs that have not been SCQF credit rated, the SVQ titling convention will remain unchanged until the SVQ/Units are SCQF credit rated, ie (for example):

SVQ level 2 in Customer Service **or** SVQ Customer Service Level 2

Is there a deadline for all SVQs to be credit rated?

As there are over 700 SVQs, they will be credit rated as and when they are reviewed and revised by the SSCs working in partnership with the relevant Awarding Bodies. This re-accreditation process should be completed by the end of 2014.

At which SCQF level is a SVQ likely to sit?

There has been an initial pilot of the credit rating process. The following table gives an indication as to where SVQs are likely to sit in relation to the SCQF levels — though it is only an indication, and it is possible that some SVQs may sit at a different level.

SCQF level	SVQs
12	SVQ 5
11	
10	
9	SVQ 4
8	SVQ 4
7	SVQ 3
6	SVQ 3
5	SVQ 2
4	SVQ 1

Will SQA Accreditation provide assistance/guidance with this process?

There are no current plans to produce guidance, though the Accreditation staff will be more than happy to offer any assistance required by SSCs or Awarding Bodies.

Will the re-titling have any impact on funding arrangements?

The change in the title will not have any impact on current funding arrangements.

Will there be any impact for candidates currently working to achieve an SVQ?

The change to the title does not affect the content or validity of SVQs. Qualifications already achieved or in progress will be recognised by employers. The policy change will not impact on content or structure of the SVQ programme.

Where can I find out which SVQs have been credit rated for the SCQF?

We are currently reviewing the content of the SQA Accreditation section of the website. As part of this, we intend to include a section which will list the details of those SVQs that have been SCQF credit rated.

I work in a college, and we use SVQ Units in our college-devised provision. What impact does the re-titling have on this?

You should use the SCQF credit and level assigned to the SVQ Unit by SQA Accreditation. The Units with their SCQF level and credit need to be shown on an SCQF profile. There are no changes to SVQ Unit titles.

I'm an employer – will this change have implications for my current or potential employees?

The only change will be to the title and the allocation of SCQF credit and level to the Units. For those SVQs that have been SCQF credit rated, you will be able to see where the SVQ sits in the SCQF in comparison to other credit rated qualifications.

Does this change impact on Modern Apprenticeship programmes?

The Modern Apprenticeship Group agreed that any new Modern Apprenticeship Frameworks submitted for approval from January 2010 would need to have the component qualifications credit rated for the SCQF. Given that SVQs are one of the main qualification components of Modern Apprenticeships, this change will assist SSCs when the MA Framework is updated.

Find out more

SQA Accreditation's News facility will provide regular updates on progress. You can sign up for Accreditation News at www.sqa.org.uk/accreditation.