

The Qualifications Approval process

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Qualifications vs. Training

Training

- On-job/off-job
- Organisational/job specific Imparts knowledge/skills
- Could have assessment
- Certification and recognition of achievement (optional)

Qualifications

- On-job/off-job
- Industry/functional specific
- Normally includes broader skills and knowledge
- Underpins training
- Requires assessment and verification
- Certification and recognition of achievement

Qualifications?

- Competence Qualifications
 - Mapped directly to NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS
- Vocational Qualifications (VQs)
 - Related to NOS
 - Knowledge
 - Occupational
- Credit(s)
- Employer Training / In – House Training



Accreditation?

- Statutory Regulation
- Qualifications Regulators
- Criteria – externality



Qualifications Approval

- Qualifications and Credit Framework
 - Qualifications – Units – Credits
- Sector Skills Council Qualifications Approval Process
 - Part of the statutory process of accreditation
- Sector Qualifications Strategy (SQS)
- Funding



Qualification Approval Definition

Qualifications must be clear:

- Purpose
- Content
- Structure
- Title
- Assessment
- Credit Accumulation - Use of units



Principles of Approvals - SSCs

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Proportionality
- Consistency
- Targeted



Approvals – The Process

Pre-Approval process

- SSC confirms Vocational Qualification ‘approval’ arrangements with Awarding Bodies and OfQual
- SSC and Awarding Organisation agree that plans for Qualification development are aligned with sector need
- Awarding Organisation begins developing Qualification
- Awarding Organisation submits Qualification for ‘approval’ to SSC



Approvals – The Process

Approval and Accreditation Process

- SSC Qualifications Team checks that the Qualification is needed by their sector
 - SSC 'approves' Qualification
 - Regulators check and confirm all statutory regulations
 - Regulators accredit Qualification
- 15 days!



Approvals – The Sector Skills Council Board

Board

- Employers,
- VET representatives
- Higher Education representatives,
- Trade Associations

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Review the Sector Qualifications Strategy

Approves Awarding organisation plans

Qualifications monitoring



Awarding Organisations

- SQS and SQS action plans
- Agreed list of Vocational Qualifications (VQ)
- SSC and AO agree that plans for VQ development align with sector need
- Ongoing dialogue between AO, SSC and qualifications regulators (QRs) regarding VQ development as appropriate
- Awarding Body Forum - Strategic
- Service Level Agreement



- Questions

- Thank You

