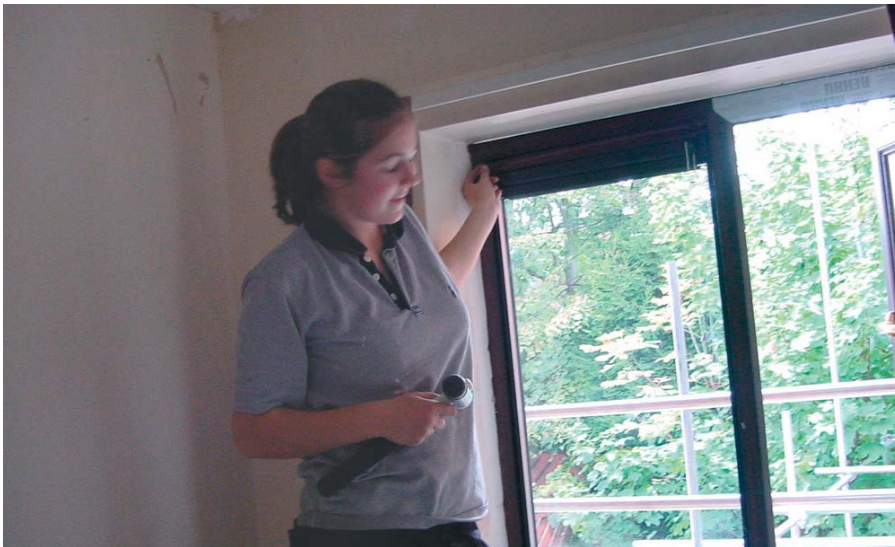


First Female Installer Achievement at Tudor Glazing



Joanne Gallie, Fitter with Tudor Glazing

Tudor Glazing Limited, who work with the GQA recognised centre, Schuco International, based in Milton Keynes, recognise the need to promote equality as a part of the company image, and are pleased to employ a female installer.

Joanne Gallie is the first female to achieve the new generation GQA Fenestration Installation Level 2 NVQ.

Mark Jones, Contracts Manager at Tudor Glazing said, "Joanne has been a credit to the company and proven herself to be a first class installer, culminating in being awarded the GQA NVQ Fenestration Installation Level 2. By achieving this qualification Joanne stands equal with any male installer in the country with a similar qualification. The implementation of the standard ensures that all installations are carried out by qualified professionals. Working in close co-operation with our Public Sector Clients, we have to be sympathetic to all of their equality and needs, especially

where religious beliefs are prominent within the household. This factor has been easily overcome, with the employment of Joanne. Let's hope that Joanne's success will inspire more women into the industry, as we would rapidly welcome the opportunity to employ more women of Joanne's calibre."



Joanne with Assessor, Mark Jones, receiving feedback

GQA's 13,000th National Vocational Qualification



GQA's 13,000th national vocational qualification (NVQ and SVQ) was awarded to Atif Naseer Lone at Polyframe for his success in Production of Glass Supporting Fabrications Level 2 qualification.

Polyframe has been successfully implementing GQA NVQs via The Essential Support Team (TEST) Ltd.

Atif said, "The NVQ Process has improved the quality of my work and broadened my knowledge of window fabrication, increasing my confidence with the product. It has widened my communication skills both with co-workers and managers, when discussing work related issues. This knowledge has given me a clear line of thought towards the implications of my actions. Before I did the NVQ, I could do the job, but now I can prove I can do it right, on time and with good quality. I am glad I did this qualification."

2006 - The End of the GQA Level 2 'Q' Qualifications

Centres are reminded that the five GQA NVQ Level 2 'Q' qualifications will expire for certification purposes on the 31st July 2006, i.e. currently registered candidates must have been assessed and internally and externally verified before then. The equivalent SVQ qualifications expire two months earlier on the 31st May 2006.

They said...

"Proskills aims to work with employers to transform the glass industry, building a workforce for the future while at the same time adding value to business now and enhancing the profile of the industry"

Proskills

"GQA is a very successful organisation providing the right services for the glass industry"

GTL

"Proskills is one of a network of 25 employer-led Sector Skills Councils tasked by the governments of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland with ensuring employers have people with the right skills to boost productivity and competitiveness"

Proskills

"If dealing with other awarding bodies was as hassle free as that with GQA, then my job would be easier. Thanks for your help"

Boston College

"The UK glass industry produces an estimated 2.8 million tonnes of glass each year, with a sales volume of several billion pounds"

Proskills

"Only the continued development of your system and your unique approach to assessment and IV strategy can provide a higher standard if there is such a thing"

HB Training Ltd (Henry Boot)

"400,000 construction workers and industry workers have taken a health and safety e-test"

Prometric

"The price of gaining knowledge is nothing compared to the cost of ignorance"

Anonymous

"By the time an infant of today leaves school (in the UK), he/she will have been assessed 92 times"

Heard at an e-seminar

"2 or 3 times had problems accessing website. Good reply/explanation from GQA staff regarding website problem."

Pilkington UK Float Manufacturing

"Always found all staff very friendly, helpful and professional"

RAC Auto

Windscreens

"Overall service from GQA staff and EV is really good. Always helpful and polite with knowledgeable staff at the GQA office only willing to assist. Keep it up"

The North Lancs Training Group

"All my dealings so far with GQA have been more than satisfactory"

Wiltshire College

"Someone took an interest in your learning and development to help you on your life journey! Can you do the same for others?"

David Dyble, STAR Award winner 2005

FAB National Conference

The Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB) held its national conference at the new Ricoh Arena near Coventry. The theme of the conference was 'Working Together for Learners'. Approximately 300 delegates attended the conference to hear presentations from QCA, LSC, Institute of Directors, Phil Hope MP and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills. The second day of the conference consisted of nine seminar titles from which delegates could choose three.

Throughout the conference, a group of exhibitors including e-testing, e-marking and online assessment companies were on hand to provide information and support. Given QCA's vision that by 2009, all awarding

John McNamara,
Chairman of FAB,
opening the
conference.



bodies will have an e-assessment capability linked to national vocational qualifications; e-issues are of vital importance.

The awarding bodies in membership of FAB (including GQA) account for over 95% of all vocational qualifications awarded each year. GQA was represented by Allan Murray and Mick Clayton.

STAR Awards

The Department for Education and Skills Success for All Strategy - Reforming Further Education and Training, published November 2002, set out its Vision for the Future. One of its commitments is to introduce a scheme of awards for teachers, lecturers, trainers, managers and support staff who work in the learning and skills sector. The STAR Awards recognise and reward the work of the "unsung heroes" who have made an outstanding contribution to the quality of learning that millions of people in England receive every day.

In its first year in 2004, the STAR Awards received more than 1,600 nominations. 130 of these nominees were short-listed, one of these being from the Glass Sector. Terry Gater of Rockware Glass was nominated for two awards. Of the 130 nominees, 13 winners were selected.

2005 saw more than 3,400 individuals recognised in 1,585 nominations for a STAR Award. An independent judging panel of sector experts whittled the nominations down to a short list of just over 150 nominees with sixteen prize

categories, all designed to champion the "unsung heroes" of the learning and skills sector. Winners in 2005 were presented with a top prize of £2,000, a trophy and certificate, and the winning team walked away with £5,000, as well as a trophy and certificate. The winners' institutions were also presented with a framed certificate recognising that they employ a STAR.

Do you know a STAR, somebody special who's made a real difference? Recognise the effort and commitment that they have given to your organisation and learners – the 2006 STAR Awards nomination period will open on 9th January 2006 and all nominations must be received by midnight on Friday 31st March 2006. Nominations can be made online or by requesting a nomination form from the STAR Awards helpline, which is freephone Monday to Friday 0800 652 0528.

More details can be found at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/starawards/index.cfm>.



Online Registration Facility for GQA Centres

Our online Registration Service is available for all GQA Centres to use! This service allows you to • Register as many candidates as you wish • Register 24 hours a day

Please visit our website www.glassqualificationsauthority.com and apply to use this service by completing our online application form.

Health and Safety Test

GQA are currently in the final piloting phase of a Health and Safety E-Test which will be available to all Approved Centres in early 2006. The test comprises of a knowledge bank of over 150 questions, with a random 40 questions being presented to anyone accessing the test. The questions are all based on the general health and safety knowledge contained within GQA Qualifications and therefore are applicable to anyone working within the Glass and related Industries. Access to the test will be by way of a password only available to Approved Centre personnel, giving the

option for an invigilated test that will validate the test result evidence as the candidates own work and ensure a contribution to underpinning knowledge requirements.

The E-Test will be available free of charge both online, via the GQA website or CD-ROM, available on request. Further information will be available shortly from GQA.

This is the second phase of GQA's e-activities. If you would like to be involved in the development or piloting stages for any of our future e-activities then please contact GQA at info@gqaqualifications.com

The Learning Network is the online support network for anyone who delivers, assesses or verifies N/SVQs and helps develop Assessment & Verification practice whilst providing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) activity, with the inclusion of a complimentary training event. The Learning Network is a vital part of ENTO's activities and follows the aims of ENTO which is to help people develop their level of competency and skills and is focused on the needs of the learners, employees and employers.

- An interactive website with forums offering:
 - A Surgery with a 48hr guaranteed response time
 - Technical support
 - Themed discussion areas
 - Regularly updated Frequently Asked Questions
- Telephone helpline
- Monthly newsletter (Electronic or Paper based)
- Complimentary annual CPD (Continuous Professional Development) Training Event
- Directory of contacts – A searchable database of members of The Learning Network
- Regular updates on key stakeholder activities including regulatory bodies
- Provision of ongoing help, technical support and consultation with honest answers and impartial and objective advice
- 20% off all ENTO products and services

See www.thelearningnetworkonline.com for further information.

Sector Skills Councils

Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) are independent, UK-wide organisations licensed by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, in consultation with Ministers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK. Sector Skills Councils actively involve employers in their work to:

- Reduce skills gaps and shortages
- Improve productivity, business and public service performance
- Increase opportunities to boost the skills and productivity of everyone in the sector's workforce, including action on equal opportunities
- Improve learning supply, including apprenticeships, higher education and national occupational standards

The primary SSCs that GQA is currently working with are ConstructionSkills and Proskills.

Proskills SSC

Proskills, the Sector Skills Council that embraces the standards setting role for glass and related occupations, was officially launched on the 1st November on the prestigious HQS Wellington adjacent to Victoria Embankment, London.

The event was very successful with hundreds of delegates present to witness the presentation of the Proskills SSC licence by the Minister for Education.

Left to right: Minister for Education and Skills, Phil Hope; Proskills Chair, Stephen Falder; and Proskills CEO, Terry Watts.



BSI The GQA NVQ/SVQ Contribution to the BSI Standard for Installation Companies

A BSI Kitemark scheme of voluntary certification has been introduced (based upon the BPF 362/2 code of practice) for organisations involved in the survey and installation of windows and external doorsets. New build, replacement and commercial markets are all covered by the scheme irrespective of the type of materials used – PVCu, timber, aluminium or steel.

Any organisation, company or business that can satisfactorily demonstrate that they meet the requirements of the scheme can apply for the kitemark.

Approval by BSI will include on-site and general administration assessment. An important part of the assessment process will involve the checking of installation personnel records including evidence of training and occupational competence.

Those installation companies that have successfully implemented GQA's Fenestration Installation N/SVQs are likely to be able to provide the required evidence. A BSI information sheet can be obtained at www.kitemarktoday.com and clicking on 'Window and Door Installers'.

National Occupational Standards (NOS) Directory Launched

All national vocational qualifications (NVQs and SVQs) are based on national occupational standards (NOS) that have been derived by Standards Setting Bodies (increasingly Sector Skills Councils or SSCs).

The NOS directory was launched in November. The directory can be found by visiting www.ukstandards.org.uk

The directory is expected to provide a resource to:

- Employers and businesses
- Employees and individuals
- SSCs and Standards Setting Bodies
- Regulatory, awarding education and training organisations

The directory can be searched by keyword, SSC name, industry sector or area of learning.

GQA Outstanding Achievement Award



An outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Amanda Jennings at the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce annual Sheffield Business Awards event in December 2005.

The event was attended by all GQA employees and their partners. Amanda is GQA's Systems Controller and her GQA Outstanding Achievement Award was primarily related to her improvements and changes to the GQA qualifications database, to facilitate:

- online candidate registrations
- new in-depth statistical reviews
- links with the GQA website

Review of Glazing NOS

A review of the national occupational standards (NOS) has been completed by CITB, GTL and Proskills. The new NOS are scheduled to be submitted for national approval. When the new standards are approved, GQA will apply for approval to offer new qualifications to replace the existing Glazing Installation and Maintenance NVQs/SVQs. Centres are reminded that the last date for registration on the current Glazing NVQs/SVQs is 30th June 2006.

GQA Approved Centre Influences Others

Due to the introduction of the new NVQs produced by CITB-ConstructionSkills (Magenta Scheme), The CITB recognised centre at Preston College (OSAT Construction Department) determined the need to revise the assessment materials to meet the required holistic approach, which subsequently received awarding body EV approval.

The template for the new scheme was largely influenced by the assessment format already adopted by GQA Recognised the Preston College/UCATT Glazing Assessment Centre in conjunction with the GQA EV Denis Goodwin.

Recently Approved GQA Centres

- Internal Verification Services
- North West Training Council
- Wiltshire College

Toughglass Success

Christine Campbell, of Toughglass, has recently completed her Modern Apprenticeship. Toughglass is one of the leading independent manufacturers of toughened safety glass within the UK and Ireland. Christine is the first female Modern Apprentice to become a Team Leader and also the first female Team Leader on Toughglass Site 1. As part of the Modern Apprenticeship, Christine achieved the GQA NVQ Level 3 in Glass Processing.

Portrait of an Assessor – Colleen Sleigh



Glass Creations is a GQA Centre providing training and assessment in glass processing related craft competences. One of their tutors/assessors is Colleen Sleigh, who is working towards her A1 Award with Blackburn College.

Colleen previously owned and ran a restaurant business but developed (for recreational purposes) an interest in glass. She subsequently achieved a GQA Level 2 Glass Processing NVQ and is currently registered on the Level 3 NVQ.

The interest in glass had become an obsession and Colleen's interest and skill was recognised by the Centre. She now teaches/tutors a wide range of individuals and liaises with Bohle on a range of Centre of Excellence issues.

It is anticipated that upon successful completion and implementation of the A1 Award, Colleen will work towards becoming a V1 qualified Internal Verifier.

Mick Clayton; MBA



On 14th November 2005, GQA's Technical Officer Mick Clayton received his Master of Business Administration degree (MBA) from Patrick Stewart, Chancellor of Huddersfield University. Mick's studies were sponsored by a major glass container manufacturer.

Current Live GQA Qualifications

GQA qualifications available as NVQs/SVQs are listed below:

- Automotive Glazing Level 2 and 3
- Fenestration Installation Level 2
- Fenestration Installation and Surveying Level 3
- Glass Manufacturing Level 2 and 3
- Glass Processing Level 2 and 3
- Glazing Installation and Maintenance Level 2 and 3
- Production of Glass Supporting Fabrications Level 2 and 3

GQA also offer the following qualifications:

- Glass Related Operations Level 3 Technical Certificate
- The assessor A1 and A2 Awards at Level 3
- The verifier V1 and V2 Awards at Level 4

For further details on the above qualifications, please visit our website or contact GQA direct.

Glassex Registration Hotline Opens

Glassex 2006 will take place at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham 5th to 8th March 2006, inclusive.

To make sure you get your tickets in advance, call the Glassex ticket hotline 0870 429 4594 or visit the website www.glassex.com to register online. Benefits include advance exhibitor and event information designed to allow detailed planning of your visit.



For further information on any articles in this newsletter, future contributions, comments, queries or complaints please contact: Rebecca Brown, Glass Qualifications Authority Limited, Provincial House, Solly Street, Sheffield S1 4BA.

Tel: 0114 272 0033 Fax: 0114 272 0060 email: info@gqaqualifications.com website: www.glassqualificationsauthority.com

