

## **Appeals Procedure**

The Vocational Academy Essex LTD provides a formal route for learners wishing to appeal against an assessment decision.

All learners are assessed against agreed criteria as detailed in the course/unit syllabus which is published by the awarding body. Assessment decisions are made by assessors who are trained, and who have a recognised Assessor Award in one of the following:

Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocational Achievement  
Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment  
Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement  
SVQ Learning and development Unit D9 – Assess workplace competence using direct methods  
SVQ Learning and Development Unit D9I – Assess workplace competence using direct and indirect methods

## **Areas for Appeal**

Learners can appeal against an assessment decision relating to:

- The mark for an individual item of coursework e.g. worksheets and case studies
- The final result of any element of assessment e.g. planning, teaching and/or evaluation
- The external assessment (theory paper)
- The final overall internal/external assessment decision for a qualification

## **Grounds for Appeal**

An appeal may be made if:

- The assessment was not conducted in accordance with the college's regulations
- Medical or other extenuating circumstances arose during the assessment process which affected the learner's performance
- There was inappropriate or irregular behaviour on the part of the assessor

*The centre Internal Quality Assurer is responsible for managing the appeal and must hold a recognised internal quality assurance qualification in one of the following:*

*Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice*

*Level 4 Certificate in leading the Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice*

*SVQ Learning and Development Unit 11 – Internal Quality Assurance*

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- The learner should firstly discuss the reason for the appeal with the Assessor or Internal Quality Assurer (if possible) on the day of the assessment
- If this does not resolve the appeal the learner should complete the Learner Appeal Form and submit to the Internal Quality Assurer within 5 days from the date of the assessment – include any supporting evidence (see additional notes below)
- The Internal Quality Assurer will investigate the appeal and respond in writing within 7 working days

### **Stage 2**

- If the learner feels that the outcome is unsatisfactory they should complete the relevant section of the Learner Appeal Form and re-submit to the Internal Quality Assurer
- The college will then notify the awarding body's External Quality Assurer.
- If the awarding body's External Quality Assurer was not present or is unable to resolve the appeal issue, the learner will be directed to the third stage of the appeals process

### **Stage 3**

- The learner should complete a written appeal directly to the appropriate awarding body's Lead External Quality Assurer, who will investigate the matter thoroughly and respond in writing within 21 working days
- If the learner feels that the Lead External Quality Assurer has been unable to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion, the appeal may be referred directly to the awarding body's Director of Awarding

### **Stage 4**

- The learner may be offered a formal appeals hearing. This will be conducted within 6 weeks and will be conducted by the appeals panel
- Provision of an appeals hearing will incur a nominal fee. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld

### **Additional Notes**

- It is extremely difficult to investigate appeals without impartial evidence. Therefore appeals against referrals in practical teaching based solely on the learner's disagreement with the assessor's decision will only be considered when accompanied by a video recording
- The learner has the right to video any aspect of their assessment using their own video recording equipment provided it does not interfere with the assessment process, other learner's or the assessor's ability to carry out their role(s)
- It is the responsibility of the learner to arrange a video operator
- It is the responsibility of the learner to notify the centre where their assessment is taking place of any medical problem which may affect student performance adversely in the assessment process, so that a decision can be made for deferral, prior to the assessment date
- Theory papers that are externally assessed by the awarding body are marked electronically and sampled regularly
- Appeals against referrals in the external theory result can result in the following action:
  1. Investigation into the centre's invigilation procedures/delivery
  2. Hand marking of the theory papers
  3. Investigation into the content of the theory paper by the awarding body's Senior Qualifications Manager