



e-skills uk



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# Assessment Implementation for iTQ

## Policy on Expert Witnesses

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A joint statement from e-skills UK and the IT User S/NVQ (iTQ) Awarding Bodies on the role of Expert Witnesses.

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## Statement

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As IT Awarding Bodies we confirm full acceptance of the approved Assessment Strategy for the IT User S/NVQ (iTQ). We acknowledge there has been some inconsistency in implementing this in the way intended, particularly with regard to the use of Expert Witnesses. This Statement seeks to make clear Awarding Body support for the use of Expert Witnesses.

The Assessment Strategy defines “an enhanced role for ‘expert witnesses’ ” in providing evidence of competence. This is suggested as a preferred method of gathering evidence in the workplace:

“the assessment of workplace performance should be as natural and efficient as possible and therefore evidence of competence should, where possible, come from work colleagues acting as ‘expert witnesses’”.

It is recommend that:

- approved assessors should seek out workplace ‘expert witnesses’ as part of their assessment planning for candidates and record clearly the units ‘expert witnesses’ may attest to by Area of Competence [ AoC] and Level. The relationship between assessor and ‘expert witness’ is one of delegated responsibility by assessors to expert witnesses, **with approved assessors retaining the final decisions.**
- approved internal verifiers should document the use of expert witnesses, for external verifier inspection, including company, job role, AoC, Level and name of approved assessor responsible and review dates.
- external verifiers should ask for this listing and discuss individuals listed as part of their sampling of evidence.

We further recommend that, where appropriate, contributions from ‘expert witnesses’ should be seen as the norm in assessing the mandatory unit ‘Make Selective Use of IT’ in order to make assessment for this workplace unit as natural and efficient as possible.

## Awarding Bodies

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The following Awarding Bodies have approved the content of this statement:

British Computer Society

City and Guilds

Edexcel

Education Developments International

OCR

Scottish Qualifications Authority