

## **Executive Summary of Amendments to Quality Assurance System (QAS) Overarching QA Document**

In September 2010, FÁS introduced the Training Standards System (TSS). The TSS was a quality assurance system approved and validated by the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) and was adopted by all FÁS Training Centres and other providers in receipt of funding from FÁS, including Community Training Centres (CTCs), Specialist Training Providers (STPs), Local Training Initiatives (LTIs), Department of Justice Workshops (DoJWs), Contracted Training Providers and Evening Training.

In 2013, FÁS was dissolved and SOLAS was established. Education and Training Boards (ETBs) were also established from the Vocational Education Committees and incorporated the former FÁS Training Centres. The TSS was renamed and became the Transition Quality Assurance System (TQAS). It was envisaged that the TQAS would bridge the period between the Training Centres' oversight by SOLAS and full integration into their respective ETB and subsequent rollout of a dedicated ETB/Training Centre quality assurance agreement with the national awarding body, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

The original TSS was a 'one size fits all' response to risk identified in the governance structures of some categories of second providers. While it did serve the purpose of reducing risk across all sectors of FÁS-funded provision, it resulted in a proliferation of new forms and checklists; an onerous level of duplication of paperwork and signatures; was heavily reliant on centrally-controlled ICT systems and had no provision for the development or storage of 'Locally Devised Assessments' within the established Central Assessment Management System (CAMS).

The new Quality Assurance System (QAS) seeks to incorporate the recommendations of various stakeholders, primarily City of Dublin ETB's Further Education and Training (FET) Unit and the main staff union, SIPTU. These recommendations include the establishment of Quality Teams in both CDTEB Training Centres – in common with all other Colleges/Centres in City of Dublin ETB - and a reduction in the number of forms and signatures required, particularly in the area of assessment. [reflect enhancements taking place and alignment with other service spheres]

However, both Training Centres recognise the value of a robust quality assurance system and have agreed that the QAS will remain largely unchanged from the original TSS where the potential for greatest risk has been identified, namely with Second Providers and Evening Training provision. Due to the lower level of risk posed by direct training provision in the Training Centres, some processes have been amended to ease the burden of paperwork involved, while one other has been discontinued completely in the Training

Centres and another has been introduced to facilitate the development of Locally Deviced Assessments from both internal and external sources.

The result is a two-tier system where all or fewer processes are implemented, depending on the level of risk associated with the circumstances of the training provision. This has been termed the 'Duality of Process'.

It is important to note at this point that of the ten sections that comprise the QAS, only Section 6, The Fair and Consistent Assessment of Learners, has been reviewed and the changes listed below reflect this.

### QAS Section 6: The Fair and Consistent Assessment of Learners

No.	Item	Amendment
1	Reference to FÁS/SOLAS	Except to acknowledge SOLAS as the source of the basis of the QAS, all references to FÁS and/or SOLAS has been removed from Section 6 of the Overarching QA document
2	Reference to TSS/TQAS/MAPs/FETAC	All references to TSS, TQAS, MAPs and FETAC have been removed from Section 6 of the Overarching QA document
3	Quality Assurance Teams	The establishment of, and Terms of Reference for Quality Assurance Teams are incorporated in to the Introduction of the Overarching QA document. Quality Assurance Teams are also referenced in QAS 6L, Development of New Assessments
4	Duality of Process	Section 6 Fair and Consistent Assessment of Learners Duality of Process Overview developed and included in Overarching QA document
5	Assessment Notifications	Form F11 (Notification of Assessment Events) is discontinued for use in Training Centres, replaced by simplified email message template
6	Internal Verification of Results	Internal Verification of Results amended from 100% to minimum of 25% in Direct Training setting
7	City of Dublin ETB EA Sampling Strategy	City of Dublin ETB EA Sampling Strategy is incorporated into QAS 6G, External Authentication
8	Internal Verification on the Conduct of the Assessment Process	QAS 6D, Internal Verification on the Conduct of the Assessment Process discontinued in Direct Training setting
9	Development of New Assessments	QAS 6L, Development of New Assessments, is added to Section 6 of the Overarching QA

		document to facilitate Locally Devised Assessments
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