



24 April 2007

National standards for distiller training launched

New national training standards in distilling, warehousing and bottling are among over forty vocational units launched by the Scotch Whisky industry at Blair Athol Distillery today.

The 'Spirits Industry Vocational Qualification' (SIVQ) reflects the industry's continuing commitment to building employee skills across Scotland. The standards have been developed by the industry, in partnership with the Scottish Qualifications Authority, and cover a wide range of operational activities, including malting, distilling, warehousing, bottling and health & safety.

Launching the SIVQ, Peter Nelson, Chairman of the distilling industry training committee, said:

"Supporting and developing a highly skilled workforce is essential to Scotch Whisky's continuing competitiveness. I'm delighted that we have been able to develop these qualifications tailored to distillers' needs, enabling industry staff to broaden their existing skills and knowledge."

Julie Hesketh-Laird, the SWA's Director of Operational & Technical Affairs, commented:

"Today's launch of a comprehensive and flexible SIVQ introduces a national qualification with real value to employees and employers. It meets the specific training needs of the spirits industry and recognises quality and achievement by those working across the sector."

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Note to Editors:

1. The SIVQ is validated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority and is Level 5 on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework. It replaces the Distilling Industry Vocational Qualification and is open to all of the distilling industry.
2. To be awarded an SIVQ, candidates must successfully complete a minimum of 8 out of the 44 units on offer.
3. For further information please contact David Williamson at the SWA on 0131 222 9230 or 07730 496 151.