

**Qualification Title:** NZ Certificate in Forest Harvesting Operations (Level 4) with strands in Cable Extraction; Fleet, Sort and Stack; Ground Based Extraction; Head Breaker - out; Loading; Log Making; Mechanised Felling; Mechanised Processing; Spotting; Swing Yarder Extraction; and Tree Felling

**Qualification number:** 2327

**Date of review:** 24 April 2019

This report refers to graduates awarded this qualification prior to: **31 December 2018**

**Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National consistency is confirmed**

**Threshold:**

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of:

- Graduates who have the skills and knowledge required to be employed, or self-employed, in a senior production role in their area of specialisation in a forest harvesting operation. They are able to contribute to, and make decisions regarding, the planning and safety within the operation.
- Graduates are able to take responsibility, without supervision, for: the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of forest harvesting plant and equipment; and maintenance of productivity within the operation.

**Education Organisations with sufficient evidence**

The following education organisations have been found to have sufficient evidence.

Education Organisation	Final rating
Competenz	Sufficient
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology	Sufficient
Northland Polytechnic	Sufficient

**Introduction**

This level 4 qualification of 45-72 credits is intended to provide New Zealand forest industry with individuals who have the skills and knowledge required to be employed in a production role in a harvesting operation. Graduates of this qualification will be able to work in a forest harvesting crew carrying out work on the landing or in the cutover.

Holders of the qualification may be able to progress onto more senior roles within the operation including crew manager or operations manager.

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The qualification includes eleven strands which represent distinct activities within forest harvesting operations.

Graduates of this qualification may also decide to complete the New Zealand Certificate in Forest Industry Operations (Planning and Monitoring) (Level 4) with strands in Harvesting, Inventory, and Silviculture [Ref: 2330] or the New Zealand Certificate in Forestry Crew Management (Level 5) [Ref: 2331].

However, in practice, most graduates would regard this qualification as their highest formal forestry qualification.

All programmes of all three of the education organisations in this review, are delivered on job.

### Evidence

The education organisations provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were:

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by the education organisation.
- How well the organisation has analysed, interpreted and validated the evidence, and used the understanding gained to achieve actual or improved consistency.
- The extent to which the education organisation can reasonably justify and validate claims and statements relating to the consistency of graduate outcomes, including in relation to other providers of programmes leading to the qualification.

Evidence provided for this review included:

- Confirmation that each of the education organisations had a coherent programme of study which ensured that programme components led to the graduate profile.
- Graduate and employer surveys which confirmed that graduates had gained, and were using, the skills and knowledge outlined in the graduate profile.
- Feedback from industry assessors verifying that graduates were meeting industry expectations regarding conformity with the graduate profile.

### **How well does the evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?**

The evidence presented before, and at the review meeting, was sufficient to demonstrate that the graduates from the education organisations listed above match the graduate outcomes and that graduates meet the threshold.

All education organisations provided strong evidence related to the alignment of their approved programme of study with the graduate outcomes. Organisations also presented useful feedback from graduates that was directly aligned to the graduate outcomes. All education organisations were able to provide positive evidence albeit from a small sample of employers, that employees were learning and using valuable skills and knowledge consistent with the graduate outcomes. The fact that the majority of graduates continued to work in forest harvest operations was viewed as good evidence.

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Survey response rates for all three education organisations were low. Fortunately, given that all education organisations had regular and ongoing contact with employers in the workplace, they were able to provide evidence from these engagements which corroborated the survey and other evidence.

Overall, the self-assessment and supporting evidence supplied, by those organisations found sufficient, demonstrates that their graduates meet the graduate outcomes at the determined threshold.

### **Special Focus** (includes special focus on a strand or outcome)

This review included all strands.

### **Examples of good practice**

All providers have aligned survey and other tools with the graduate outcomes. This was a difficult task given the large number of specialisations and graduate outcomes.

The use of independent researchers by one provider to gather graduate data across a number of qualifications has the benefit of providing an unbiased survey result which can also be compared with other qualifications delivered by the education organisation.

### **Issues and concerns**

All of the providers found that engaging with employers to gain feedback regarding the graduate outcomes was testing. Employers are often working long hours, outside of phone and internet coverage which makes traditional survey methods largely ineffective. Yet staff from providers are regularly on site and engaged with employers and trainees – the challenge is to collect and utilize the intelligence which these staff are party to.

### **Recommendations to Qualification Developer**

Trainees often move horizontally to different roles within forest harvest operations over the course of their traineeship. The large number of specialisations within this qualification can limit or constrict a trainee's ability to complete the qualification when they move to a different area of harvest operations.