

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Forestry Operations (Level 3) with strands in Chemical Handling, Mensuration, Pruning, and Thin to Waste

Qualification number: 2334

Date of review: 6 May 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 having the skills and knowledge to be able to work safely, under limited supervision, in a commercial forestry operation within the role specified by their chosen strand. All graduates can;

- Apply an understanding of work-place Health and Safety requirements in a commercial forest.
- Apply an understanding of factors in a commercial forest which affect the person, the team and the environment, including areas of cultural significance to Maori.

In addition to this, graduates can, for their chosen strand:

Chemical Handling

- Coordinate the transport, handling, and disposal of agrichemicals in a forest establishment operation

Mensuration

- Establish mensuration plots and measure and record data from mensuration plots

Pruning

- Select and prune plantation trees from the ground and from ladder using loppers or a chainsaw in a production situation

Thin to Waste

- Operate and maintain a chainsaw in a commercial forestry operation
- Select trees and apply basic tree felling cuts to thin trees to waste in a production situation

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

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

Education Organisation	Final rating
Competenz	Sufficient
Eastern Institute of Technology	Sufficient
Turanga Ararau	Sufficient
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology	Sufficient

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Northland Polytechnic	Sufficient
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Introduction

This qualification is intended to provide graduates with the skills and knowledge required to work effectively in a commercial forestry operation within their chosen strand, and to understand safety, environmental and quality requirements. This qualification has four strands and ranges from 50 to 70 credits.

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

Education organisations presented evidence relating to:

- programme rigour including assessment and moderation, alignment with the graduate profile outcomes and real-world teaching and learning
- student, graduate and industry feedback
- employer feedback.

How well does the self-assessment and supporting evidence provided by the education organisation demonstrate that its graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold?

The nature of the intended employment outcome for this qualification presented some challenges for organisations in presenting evidence to support their self-assessment. These included an often geographically isolated workforce and transient employment opportunities.

Nevertheless, all organisations submitted, including additional data requested, adequate to convincing evidence that students met the threshold reflective of the graduate outcomes.

Modes of delivery and assessment were either on-job or a mixture of classroom/theory and practical work experience. This context provided good evidence that graduates were able to match the graduate profile.

All programmes are unit standard based, therefore providing evidence of alignment with the qualification and the graduate outcomes. Assessment tools were varied and in keeping with the practical nature of the qualification. *All providers use pre-moderated ITO developed assessment material as well as in post moderation.* One provider also used alternative external moderation to ensure consistency.

On further submission, providers were able to support moderation samples provided with evaluative comment. Some submissions could be strengthened in the future by including self-assessment that aggregates and analyses data and draws conclusions to inform programme review, assessments and teaching and learning.

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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

The qualification offers four strands; Chemical handling, Mensuration, Pruning and Thin to Waste. Of the strands available, Chemical handling was the least represented.

Examples of good practice

Programme outlines provided a clear learning matrix which clarified the mode of delivery, type of assessments mapped to graduate profile outcomes.

Three organisations evidenced a collegial working relationship that provided good opportunities for benchmarking and sharing of industry related information.

Four of the organisations presented either research-based projects or industry-based reviews. Linking these worthwhile pieces of information to inform the programme would be valuable.

Discussions during the review on working towards a shared approach to surveying employers and industry were positive, as was the point raised of using a consistent approach to survey question composition

Issues and concerns

Overall, the quality of the information supplied on graduates and the value of the qualification to employers was weak. As previously stated, the nature of the industry provides very real challenges for some organisations in compiling this data. Some strategies to mitigate this were discussed at the review meeting.

The increasing number of international or English as a second language learners poses a further challenge to organisations in ensuring the graduates are employment ready. A closer evaluation of language, literacy and numeracy may be required.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

The core elements of the graduate profile could be rewritten to simplify and condense the requirements.

Offer an alternative stranding mechanism within the qualification to enable flexibility.