

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations (Restricted Limits) (Level 4)

Qualification number: 2505

Date of review: 30 October 2017

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National Consistency Confirmed

Threshold:

The threshold to establish sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence that, as a pre-requisite to applying for a Maritime New Zealand Skipper Restricted Limits (SRL) Certificate, graduates will have the skill, knowledge and ability to:

- Plan a passage and navigate using electronic and non-electronic navigational systems.
- Operate a restricted limits vessel at sea.
- Maintain legal compliance on a restricted limits vessel.
- Maintain safety and respond to emergencies on a restricted limits vessel.
- Operate and maintain vessel propulsion, auxiliary machinery and systems.

This threshold is closely aligned to the graduate profile outcomes of the qualification. The graduate profile outcomes of the New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations (Restricted Limits) (Level 4) are directly aligned to the SRL. The New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations (Restricted Limits) (Level 4) prepares students for the Maritime New Zealand Skipper Restricted Limits Certificate(SRL). Once students have successfully completed the New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations (Restricted Limits) (Level 4) they can sit the SRL oral examinations. Gaining the SRL certificate enables students to work as a skipper on vessels operating within the restricted limits as defined in the New Zealand Seafarer Certification and Operational Limits Framework.

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Coastguard Boating Education	Sufficient
Manukau Institute of Technology	Sufficient
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology	Sufficient
Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology	Sufficient

Introduction

The qualification is intended for persons working as deck crew or persons with suitable experience as skipper on a recreational vessel who wish to progress to the role of skipper on a restricted limits vessel. Completion of this qualification is a pre-requisite to applying for a Maritime New Zealand Skipper Restricted Limits Certificate, which will allow graduates to work

as a skipper on vessels operating within the restricted limits as defined in the New Zealand Seafarer Certification and Operational Limits Framework.

Four educational organisations had graduates of the qualification, ranging from a single graduate to 51. The programmes are offered in many modalities including online; block courses and on-site. The qualification developer is Competenz and the professional body Maritime New Zealand. Both organisations attended the review.

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

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

The evidence provided by the education organisations before and after the review included graduate feedback, employer attestations and graduate destination data. Examples from the Maritime New Zealand training record book which each student completed provided evidence of real-world learning. Programme mapping, internal and external moderation, sample assessments and programme review summaries provided convincing evidence of the quality and robustness of the programmes leading to the qualification.

Graduate's successful achievement of the Maritime New Zealand Skipper Restricted Limits Certificate was deemed to evidence the effectiveness of the programme in achieving its intended purpose of providing an appropriate pathway to this professional certification.

Data relating to programme inputs failed to recognise the focus of the review, that is, the graduates' level of competence against the graduate profile outcomes. Raw data supplied without synthesis adds no value and provides no evidence of graduates meeting the agreed threshold.

Programme integrity and robustness

Evidence provided by the education organisations attests to the fitness for purpose of the programme structure, delivery and assessments, and gives confidence that successful completion should result in the achievement of the graduate outcomes and the agreed threshold. Such evidence included:

- Programme mapping, demonstrating how the components aligned with the graduate profile;
- External reviews of content to ensure real-world alignment and currency;
- Internal and external moderation demonstrating the strength of assessments in testing competence against the learning outcomes;
- Training Record Book samples demonstrating a clear link between knowledge and real-world application.

Student and graduate feedback

This confirms the value of the learning (students), and the efficacy of the competencies in real-work contexts (graduates). The usefulness of this feedback was variable as, for several providers, it was merely an affirmation of the quality of provision. Where feedback sought had been aligned to the graduate outcomes or purpose of the qualification, the feedback had value in providing evidence of consistency of outcomes.

Destination stakeholder data and feedback

Industry, employer and Maritime New Zealand feedback provided valid evidence of the level of graduate competence. Again, where this was aligned to the graduate outcomes and/or purpose of the qualification, the feedback had greater value in providing evidence of consistency of outcomes.

Evidence of graduates gaining the Maritime New Zealand Skipper Restricted Limits Certificate attested to the effectiveness of this qualification in achieving the intended pathway.

Overall, where organisations had provided evidence of programme integrity and robustness, student and graduate feedback and destination stakeholder data and feedback, there was a credible case to demonstrate that its graduates meet the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold.

Special Focus

The focus of the New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations (Restricted Limits) (Level 4) is that it is a pre-requisite to applying for a Maritime New Zealand Skipper Restricted Limits Certificate. The qualification has limited value for other purposes, enabling the student to only apply the learning under supervision as a crew member and not a skipper.

Examples of good practice

Aligning the graduate outcomes and the competencies for the New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations (Restricted Limits) (Level 4) and the Maritime New Zealand Skipper Restricted Limits Certificate linked these in an authentic way and clearly identified the coherence and relationship between the two.

Issues and concerns

The close relationship between the professional certification (Maritime New Zealand Skipper Restricted Limits Certificate) and the New Zealand Qualification Framework qualification (New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations (Restricted Limits) (Level 4)) created confusion regarding what was being reviewed for consistency. Some providers made no distinction between the two qualifications, leading to a situation where the Maritime New Zealand examination was deemed to be the final assessment for the New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations (Restricted Limits) (Level 4). The New Zealand Certificate in Domestic Maritime Operations (Restricted Limits) (Level 4) must be reviewed and analysed as a discrete qualification with its own requirements.

All students completed the Maritime New Zealand Training Record Book which details a variety of tasks and activities that must be completed. These can be signed off by a person in industry working with the student. However, where this person is not a trained assessor the validity of using log books as formal assessment is questioned. It is strongly recommended that where providers are using the Training Record Book as summative assessment, these are signed off by a tutor or trained assessor and moderated.

The degree of reflection on data by providers was variable. In most cases some degree of reflection was evident, but in others documentation was provided that made no contribution to the evidence of consistency.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

The Purpose Statement in the qualification:

The purpose of this qualification is to provide the maritime industry with personnel who have the skills necessary to take charge of, and maintain, the safety of vessels of less than 24 metres in length operating within restricted limits under the Maritime New Zealand Seafarer Certification and Operational Limits Framework.

And Employment Pathways statement:

Holders of this qualification will have the skills and knowledge required to work as a skipper on vessels operating within the restricted limits as defined in the New Zealand Seafarer Certification and Operational Limits Framework. Typical roles may be as skipper on work boats, water taxis or small ferries under 12 metres in length and carrying fewer than 12 passengers.

do not make clear the fact that students cannot achieve the purpose or the educational pathway until they have also gained the Maritime New Zealand Skipper Restricted Limits Certificate. This needs to be made explicit.

The qualification notes that 'Award of the Skipper Restricted Limits Certificate by Maritime New Zealand may also require the completion of: a logbook.'. This indicates that completion of a logbook is not a compulsory and that any 'logbook' could be used. Maritime New Zealand was emphatic that all students are required to complete the Maritime New Zealand Logbook. If successful completion of the Maritime New Zealand logbook is a requirement for all students and a prerequisite for sitting the SRL, it should be made explicit in the wording of the qualification.