

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Irrigation System Design (Level 5)

Qualification number: 2557

Date of review: 29 July 2021

This report refers to graduates awarded this qualification prior to **31 December 2020**

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 being able to:

- Design and plan an irrigation system for an agricultural or horticultural property, sports turf surface, or public grounds.
- Prepare and complete the documentation for the design and delivery of an irrigation system.
- Develop an operations and maintenance manual for irrigation system operation.

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

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

MOE Number	Education Organisation	Final rating
8105	Primary ITO	Sufficient

Introduction

The purpose of this level 5 qualification is to provide the irrigation industry with individuals who have the skills and knowledge to design efficient irrigation systems to enable improved production for commercial agriculture or horticulture operations or sports turf and public grounds. The qualification recognises the specialist skills required to design technically efficient and environmentally sustainable irrigation systems within regulatory requirements for efficient and sustainable use of New Zealand's water resources. It is intended that the increased skills and knowledge gained in achieving the qualification will enable improved job performance and ultimately more productive operations.

Graduates will be able to work in a self-managed capacity, and may be employed as designers of irrigation systems for commercial agriculture horticulture operations sports turf surface or public grounds either in a self-employed capacity or employed by irrigation companies who may supply both irrigation equipment and irrigation design services.

This qualification builds on the New Zealand Certificate in Irrigation System Performance Assessment (Level 4) [Ref: 2555], or the New Zealand Certificate in Irrigation System Management (Level 4) [Ref: 2556]. This qualification can lead to qualifications at Level 6 and above in relevant fields within the irrigation industry.

Final Consistency Review Report

The qualification was developed in 2016 (version 1) by the Primary ITO in collaboration with the irrigation industry and replaced the National Certificate which had similar outcomes. A review was undertaken in 2019, with version 2 of the qualification being published in January 2020. This is the first consistency review for the qualification.

Primary ITO is the sole education organisation offering training leading to the award of this qualification and they had 35 graduates over the reporting period. The consistency review was held via a video-conference meeting, and was attended by representatives of the PITO, a presenter, and a qualification developer.

Evidence

The education organisation 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.

The evidence included:

- Confirmation that the programme of industry training is well supported by the irrigation industry organisations and sector representatives, delivered by industry specialists, and includes a combination of off-job learning and application of knowledge and skills with clients in the workplace.
- Quality assurance processes, including moderation evidence, that provided assurance the programme is monitored by the ITO, assessors are trained and supported by verifiers in the workplace, and that assessments were at the appropriate level, valid and fair and assessor judgements were consistent.
- Feedback from graduates, employers and a tutor, confirming that the programme had provided graduates with a range of skills aligned to the graduate profiles, and the benefits gained from the training for both graduates and employers, including career and salary progressions.

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 education organisation submitted a good range of evidence that was well analysed, interpreted and triangulated and used to support a clear and convincing argument that their graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold.

The programme context, the strong industry support, the delivery by an affiliate provider with specialist skills in the irrigation field, and the strong quality assurance processes and

Final Consistency Review Report

moderation results provide a high level of confidence in the robustness of the training and the graduate outcomes.

Feedback from graduates, collected through a survey conducted by an independent research company, was very positive. Qualitative and quantitative feedback clearly demonstrated that the graduates had achieved the qualification outcomes, had gained more confidence in all aspects of their jobs, and some had resulting salary and career progressions. Employer feedback, collected via telephone interviews, corroborated the graduate feedback. The tutor of the programme confirmed the graduates increased level of confidence as a result of completing the programme.

Overall, the self-assessment and supporting evidence supplied by the education organisation demonstrates that their graduates meet the graduate outcomes at the determined threshold.

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

N/A

Examples of good practice

The PITO has embedded its processes for collecting evidence for consistency review purposes into its business as usual programme review practices and is finding this a very useful and informative practice.

Issues and concerns

N/A

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

None. The qualification was reviewed in 2019 and version 2 was published in January 2020.

Final Consistency Review Report