

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor Experiences (Level 4)

Qualification number: 2571

Date of review: 18 September 2018

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: ***National Consistency Confirmed***

Threshold:

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

- Operate safely when navigating unfamiliar and dynamic outdoor environments, including undertaking risk self-assessment, and following procedures if circumstances change
- Manage themselves, taking into account equipment, weather, logistics, and safety management to achieve group objectives while undertaking outdoor experiences
- Maintain personal fitness and the physical skills required to operate safely while undertaking outdoor experiences in a dynamic outdoor environment
- Apply a framework of tiakitanga that includes respect for the tikanga and kawa of local iwi or hapū, sustainability, and the environment while undertaking outdoor experiences
- Apply interpersonal communication skills to operate effectively during outdoor experiences as a member of a group

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Skills Active Aotearoa	Sufficient

Introduction

This 40 credit qualification, at level 4 on the NZ Qualifications framework, is designed to provide New Zealand with individuals who are able to work safely, either in paid or volunteering roles, as a member of a group in the outdoors.

It is intended to provide a diverse range of workplaces and communities with graduates who hold the essential technical skills needed to manage their own personal safety, with an ongoing responsibility for risk management, while undertaking outdoor experiences in unfamiliar and dynamic environments. Graduates will operate under indirect supervision of an outdoor leader or instructor to safely manage own participation as a member of a group. At this stage Skills Active Aotearoa is the only education organisation with approval to offer a programme for this qualification. Skills Active had 78 graduates in 2017, all of whom attained the qualification through completing the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) Artillery Corps training and assessment programme, which had been benchmarked with the qualification. This benchmarking (alignment) process was conducted by Skills Active in collaboration with the NZDF.

Skills Active intends to extend this programme to other workplaces, and this will contribute towards fulfilling the strategic purpose of the qualification.

The review meeting was attended by two representatives of Skills Active's Learning Solutions Team (the Learning Support Advisor for the NZDF had recently left the organisation), and an observer from NZQA.

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.

Evidence included:

- A report from the benchmarking exercise undertaken by Skills Active and the NZDF that determined all of the competencies required to attain the New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor Experiences (Level 4) were covered in the NZDF Artillery Corp Training. No gaps were identified in this process.
- Ongoing and long-term relationship with the NZDF, demonstrating their confidence in the qualification, the programme and the support they receive from Skills Active via the dedicated Learning Support Adviser.
- Testimonial from Manager External Relations and Qualifications, New Zealand Defence College (Sept 2018) confirming that; all trainees were graduates of the NZ Certificate in Outdoor Experience L3; the value trainees gained and that the programme demonstrates NZDF commitment to supporting learning and development.
- Moderation report (August 2018) showing that post-assessment moderation of learner samples confirmed the quality of assessment materials and that assessor judgements were consistent. The samples of trainee's End of Course Reports provide information regarding trainee performance, attitudes and their observations at the end of the training.
- A report on the Skills Active internal review of trainee assessment evidence. conducted in August 2018 which gives assurance that sufficient evidence is available to demonstrate graduates meets the outcomes of the qualification, and that training and assessment is aligned.

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

Evidence presented by Skills Active provides a convincing case that the graduates matched the graduate profile outcomes at the appropriate threshold. The key supporting evidence was the benchmarking exercise report, moderation reports, Skills Active internal review of assessment evidence and the testimonial from the NZDF that graduates capability had been demonstrated during their Army Corp training.

This evidence, complimented by the sample of End of Course reports (attached to the moderation samples) provides proof that clearly conveys both the high-stakes of the

assessment for all stakeholders and consequently the robustness of the training and the assessment the graduates had experienced.

As Skills Active conducts an annual survey of graduates, one year after completion of the qualification, and this survey is not due to be conducted until October/November, there was no specific evidence from graduates, including employment progressions or engagement in further study. This was identified as a gap in the evidence.

Whilst, there are some challenges in obtaining feedback from trainees due to privacy restrictions in the Defence Force, Skills Active acknowledges that they need to work with NZDF to identify ways of accessing graduates and collecting feedback. Additionally there is recognition that more analysis of progression through study and training pathways would add valuable insight and contribute to their Self-Assessment.

Examples of good practice

The Benchmarking/Alignment process and robust evidence provided to support the alignment of the graduate outcomes, programme of industry training with the internal training of the NZDF.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

No recommendations as result of the Consistency Review.