

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Sterilising Technology (Level 3)

Qualification number: 3218

Date of review: 22 September 2022

This report refers to all graduates awarded this qualification prior to: **31 December 2021**

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

Threshold:

This qualification is intended as an introduction to reusable medical device processing. The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of graduates being able to:

- Apply knowledge of diseases, blood born viruses, and infection prevention and control risks to the reprocessing of reusable medical devices.
- Apply knowledge of New Zealand medical device reprocessing standards to maintain a safe working environment and control the spread of contamination.

The threshold statement is the prescribed Graduate Profile Outcomes (GPOs) of the qualification.

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

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

MOE Number	Education Organisation	Final rating
6022	The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand Limited	Sufficient

Introduction

This 40-credit Level 3 Certificate is an introductory qualification. It is available nationally by extramural study through The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand Ltd (TOPNZ). The programme of study is required to adhere to the relevant standards applicable to sterilisation technology and infection prevention and control (namely AS/NZS 4187 and 4815, plus NZS 8134.3). Spaulding's classification for defining classes of reusable medical devices and the level of processing required for each class is mandatory. As such, the qualification is used as a refresher by some learners working in health or related sectors and by others using it as a first step to gain a job in the field.

The qualification provides a pathway to the New Zealand Certificate in Sterilising Technology (Level 4) [Ref: 3219].

Final Consistency Review Report

This qualification, along with related qualifications at Level 4 and Level 5, is currently under review and, as the qualification developer, TOPNZ is currently engaged in extensive consultation with the industry.

Up to 31 December 2021, there have been 31 graduates of this qualification. This is the first consistency review for this qualification.

Evidence

The education organisation provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes (GPOs).

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.

Examples of evidence included:

- Processes of ongoing programme review involving industry professionals
- Careful programme design based on prescribed professional standards
- Extensive feedback from graduates about their perceptions of the graduate outcomes attained
- Graduate destination data.

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 provider provided a comprehensive and well triangulated portfolio of evidence demonstrating that their graduates meet the required graduate outcomes.

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

None

Examples of good practice

- Strong processes are in place to ensure consistency of marking
- Very extensive feedback was gathered from graduates which demonstrated that they value this qualification.

Issues and concerns

None

Final Consistency Review Report

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

The suite of qualifications is presently under review with extensive participation from the professional body and other stakeholders. Current feedback about this qualification is generally positive, and it is not anticipated that the GPOs will change.

However, there was some contradictory evidence from graduates. While some felt that gaining this qualification helped them progress their careers, feedback from a small number of respondents suggested that this qualification was insufficient with employers looking for Level 4 qualified staff. This no doubt varies with both the type of employing organisation and local circumstances, but perhaps suggests that clearer advice to prospective learners might be needed about employment opportunities afforded by each level of study.