

**TO: CEOS of: Tertiary Education Organisations
Industry Training Organisations**

**ATTENTION: Academic Managers
Quality Assurance & Qualification Development Managers
NZQA Moderation Liaison**

Update on the review of New Zealand Curriculum based standards, likely transition arrangements, and NCEA Level 1 literacy and numeracy requirements

The Ministry of Education (MoE) and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) are currently conducting a review of New Zealand Curriculum derived standards to align them with the *New Zealand Curriculum* 2007. This document provides updates and information on:

- Review of New Zealand Curriculum-based achievement and unit standards
- Draft reviewed standards and associated assessment support material
- NZ Curriculum derived unit standards - Replacement Information and Proposed Expiry Dates
- Transition arrangements for NZ Curriculum-based unit and achievement standards
- NCEA Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy requirements.

This process affects accredited Tertiary Education Organisations (TEOs) that have been assessing and reporting credits against unit standards or achievement standards at levels 1-4 that currently link to the *New Zealand Curriculum*.

Please note that this review does not cover the other NZQA non-NZ Curriculum derived unit standards.

Enquiries

Please send any enquiries relating to this circular to email: nqs@nzqa.govt.nz

Circulars are available from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority website at: www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars

Linda Glogau
Manager, Qualifications Development and Tertiary Moderation

Review of New Zealand Curriculum-based achievement and unit standards

From mid-2008 the Ministry of Education and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) have been conducting a review of the New Zealand Curriculum derived standards to align them with the *New Zealand Curriculum 2007*¹.

This process affects accredited Tertiary Education Organisations (TEOs) that have been assessing and reporting credits against unit standards or achievement standards at levels 1-4 currently linked to the *New Zealand Curriculum*.

The alignment process will result in a phased introduction of the reviewed standards, with Level 1 standards in 2011, Level 2 in 2012 and Level 3 in 2013.

Background

Background to this review was provided in Framework circular *Review of New Zealand Curriculum derived achievement and unit standards* [ref NQF2009/002] available on the NZQA website at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars/framework.do> published 29 May 2009.

A quick summary:

In reviewing the standards to ensure alignment with the *New Zealand Curriculum 2007*, writers have been asked to:

- link the standards with New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) achievement objectives at NZC levels 6-8²;
- write all NZC derived standards as achievement standards.
- address issues of duplication between NZC derived achievement and unit standards. Where a unit standard duplicates the outcomes of an achievement standard, it will be recommended for expiry.

Where a unit standard:

- no longer relates to the NZC or it links to it below level 6
- does not duplicate another standard; and
- is well used in the wider education sector

NZQA is likely to decide to retain the standard. Any such unit standards will be reviewed and the curriculum link removed.

Achievement Standards

Achievement standards typically have three grades available: Achieved, Achieved with Merit, Achieved with Excellence.

Achievement standards have two modes of assessment: internal or external.

¹ The *New Zealand Curriculum 2007* may be viewed at <http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum>

² NZC level 6 is at NQF Level 1; NZC level 7 at NQF Level 2, and NZC level 8 at NQF Level 3.

Internally assessed achievement standards

Assessment of the internally assessed achievement standards is similar to assessment for most unit standards but the design of assessment material and schedules needs to enable grade related decisions to be made.

National external moderation follows a similar process to NZQA-managed unit standards. The internally assessed achievement standards are noted on the assessment plans submitted annually to NZQA's Tertiary Assessment and Moderation (TAM) unit in the same manner as for NZQA-managed unit standards.

Externally assessed achievement standards

Assessment for externally assessed achievement standards is either by a time-bound written examination (the majority) or by submission of a portfolio. These assessment events currently occur annually in November.

Accredited providers intending to assess against externally assessed achievement standards need to email Tertiary Assessment and Moderation at tam@nzqa.govt.nz for further information. Special arrangements apply for entry of candidates for external assessment.

Assessment support material for achievement standards

Samples of assessment material developed by the Ministry of Education for use with the current internally assessed achievement standards can be found at <http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/resources.php>.

Samples of external assessment documents developed by NZQA can be found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/assessment/exemplar/index.html>.

NZQA has also established subject specific pages (see <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/resources/index.html>) which contain resources supporting assessment of NZC derived standards.

Accreditation

Accreditation for fields, subfields, domains includes all achievement standards classified in the domains. Registered achievement standards can currently be accessed through <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/>. Work is underway to enable the achievement standards to be 'seen' when searching or exploring the Framework.

When unit standards are reviewed and replaced by achievement standards, accredited organisations are granted an extension of accreditation for the replacement achievement standards.

Accredited organisations will need to ensure that their assessors understand the requirements of the NZC and are familiar with how achievement standards are structured. Educators and trainers, where they are different from assessors, will also need to be familiar with the *Senior Secondary Teaching and Learning Guides*³ (see <http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz/>).

³ These guides have been designed by the Ministry of Education to help teachers create quality teaching and learning programmes. They are adjuncts to *The New Zealand Curriculum* and should be understood as resources rather than syllabuses or prescriptions.

Draft reviewed standards and associated assessment support material

The draft standards and assessment support material may be viewed on the Te Kete Ipurangi (TKI) website through the following link <http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/alignment-standards.php>

Implementation timeframe:

Level 1 (implemented 2011)

- Post-consultation drafts on TKI website Oct 2009
- Final planning drafts on TKI website May 2010
- Registered (for use in 2011) Dec 2010

Level 2 (implemented 2012)

- Pre-consultation drafts on TKI website Dec 2009
- Consultation with assessment resources Aug-Sept 2010
- Planning drafts on TKI website May 2011
- Registered Dec 2011

Level 3 (implemented 2013)

- Pre-consultation drafts on TKI website Dec 2010
- Consultation with assessment resources Aug-Sept 2011
- Planning drafts on TKI website May 2012
- Registered Dec 2012

Level 1 standards

Consultation about most draft Level 1 achievement standards took place in June 2009, and the standards have been amended in light of the feedback received.

The exception is the standards within the Technology learning area of the NZ Curriculum. The Ministry of Education has contracted Research New Zealand to carry out consultation about these standards (from 26 April to 28 May 2010) with users of unit and achievement standards derived from that NZC area. Accredited organisations and impacted qualification owners will have been contacted directly by Research NZ regarding this consultation. If you have any questions about the consultation, please contact standards.alignmentprojects@minedu.govt.nz.

Level 1 resources for internally assessed achievement standards

Two quality assured assessment resources will be produced for each new or significantly changed standard. These will be available in May 2009 on the TKI website at <http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/alignment-standards.php>. The intention of these resources is to assist educators and assessors in planning their programmes for 2011. These resources are not to be used for the formal assessment of students in 2010, except as part of the trialling process.

Each assessment resource will have six annotated exemplars of student work (12 exemplars per standard) to illustrate grade boundaries. These exemplars will be available at the end of 2010.

Level 1 resources for externally assessed achievement standards

Sample exam papers and schedules will be trialled from Term 2, 2010. Sample examination papers will be available by end of July 2010. Annotated exemplars of student work (to illustrate grade boundaries) will be available by the end of 2010.

Level 2 Standards and Assessment Resources

Level 2 standards are in draft form for most subject areas and are being placed on the TKI website as they become available. Consultation on the draft standards is planned for August/September 2010.

Assessment resources for new or significantly changed standards are currently being drafted. Resources for internally assessed standards are intended to be trialled in schools in Terms 1 and 2, 2010. Resources for externally assessed standards will also be trialled. All of these resources will be placed on the TKI website when they become available in late 2010.

Level 3 Standards and Assessment Resources

Drafting of the Level 3 standards has commenced and draft standards will be placed on the TKI website by December 2010.

NZ Curriculum derived unit standards - Replacement Information and Proposed Expiry Dates

Replacement information and expiry dates for replaced NZC based achievement and unit standards will be published in review reports in the usual manner. General guidance on the determining of the dates is set out in “Alignment of Standards with the NZ Curriculum” page on the TKI website (go to <http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/alignment-standards.php#unit>).

Transition arrangements for NZ Curriculum-based unit and achievement standards

NZQA and Ministry of Education are applying the following principles to transition arrangements: they should be fair to, and minimise impact on, students, accredited organisations, and standard-setting bodies.

Transition arrangements are put into place to ensure that accredited organisations have time to make adjustments to their programmes to take account of any expiring standards.

NZQA is currently consulting with standard-setting bodies regarding the proposed expiry dates and will be contacting other TEOs in due course.

NZ Curriculum derived unit standards

Wherever possible, the transition arrangements for expiring NZC derived unit standards will match the arrangements for achievement standards from the same domain. However, when standards are contained within Industry Training Organisations' National Qualifications or have high use in the tertiary education sector, a longer transition may be set.

It is expected that the transition period for around 95 percent of the Level 1 NZC derived unit standards designated as expiring will be one year, i.e. they will expire on 31 December 2011. This means that all current Level 1 NZC derived unit standards can still be used in 2011.

Replaced externally assessed achievement standards

Externally assessed achievement standards expire at the end of the calendar year in which they are replaced. This means that for all the current Level 1 externally assessed achievement standards, there will be replacement externally assessed or internally assessed achievement standards in 2011.

Replaced internally assessed achievement standards

Replaced internally assessed achievement standards have a one year transition period. This means that all the current Level 1 internally assessed achievement standards can be still be used in 2011.

There will be a further communication addressing transition arrangements, including the standard specific information, in June 2010.

Temporary exclusions list

During the transition period, an exclusion list will be necessary to manage duplication.

NCEA Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy requirements

From 2011, the literacy and numeracy requirements for NCEA Level 1 will increase to 10 credits literacy, 10 credits numeracy (previously eight credits each).

Two means of meeting the literacy and numeracy requirements will be available. One will be based on literacy and numeracy unit standards, and the other will be based on specified Level 1 achievement standards that are deemed to include sufficient evidence of literacy or numeracy to satisfy the qualification requirements.

The draft Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy unit standards are currently available for consultation and planning purposes at:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/standard/review/index.html>

Feedback on the draft Literacy and Numeracy unit standards can be provided via the above link with consultation closing on Friday 28 May.

The Ministry of Education is currently finalising the other means of demonstrating the literacy and numeracy requirements. This will be announced to the sector in due course.

Implementation timeframe

The implementation timeframe for the literacy and numeracy unit standards is:

- Targeted consultation (now closed) 15 Feb 2010
 - used to inform drafts
- Draft standards available on NZQA website mid Mar 2010
 - to view and use as planning tools for implementation
- Consultation with assessment support material mid Mar – May
- Submit standards for quality assurance June 2010
- Registered Dec 2010
 - for use in 2011

NZQA will be producing assessment guidance resources to support these unit standards and will roll these out over 2010.

Transition Arrangements for the NCEA Level 1 literacy and numeracy requirements

2011 will be a transition year so students will be able to meet the literacy and numeracy requirements for NCEA Level 1 by meeting the:

- literacy requirement using **EITHER** the new literacy arrangements **OR** the current literacy arrangements
- numeracy requirement using **EITHER** the new numeracy arrangements **OR** the current numeracy arrangements.

Note:

A mix and match between new and current arrangements in meeting the literacy requirement is **NOT** possible.

A mix and match between new and current arrangements in meeting the numeracy requirement is **NOT** possible.

There will be a formal communication addressing final NCEA Level 1 literacy and numeracy requirements, including the standard specific information, and transition arrangements in June 2010.