

**Qualification Title:** New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor Experiences (Level 3)

**Qualification number:** 2570

**Date of review:** 9 November 2016

**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, who, under direct supervision, and in a low technical/risk environment, will be able to undertake an outdoor experience, including:

- Preparation and
- Operating under a framework of tiakitanga and
- Managing their own safety and wellbeing

**Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence**

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Skills Active Aotearoa Ltd	Sufficient

**Introduction**

The NZ Certificate in Outdoor Experiences Level 3 is a 40 credit qualification designed to prepare graduates for their own outdoor experience, taking into account equipment, weather, terrain and logistic requirements. Graduates may progress to the New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor Experiences (Level 4) or other further study that leads to New Zealand qualifications listed on the NZQF at Level 4 in the Outdoor Recreation area.

Skills Active Aotearoa is the only provider with graduates (631 in 2015) all of whom have attained the qualification through a benchmarking process that Skills Active and the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) have completed to establish equivalency of the NZDF Basic Training with the competencies required for the NZ Certificate in Outdoor Experiences (Level3).

**Evidence**

The TEO provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes.

The criteria used to judge the evaluation question were (p10 NZQA consistency guidelines):

- The nature, quality and integrity of the evidence presented by TEO

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- 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 TEO 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 provided included:

- A report from the benchmarking exercise undertaken by Skills Active and the NZDF that determined that all of the competencies required to attain the New Zealand Certificate in Outdoor Experiences (level 3) were covered in NZDF Basic Training programme.
- Moderation reports (2) that confirmed that assessment materials used by NZDF to assess unit standards used in the qualification, meet the national standard.
- Verification by the New Zealand Defence Forces that graduates who were employed in the New Zealand armed services demonstrated skills and knowledge consistent with the graduate profile and saw value in attaining a qualification as a result.
- An overview of the NZDF Basic Training presented in both written and video formats.

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

Evidence presented before, at and subsequent to, the review meeting satisfactorily demonstrated that the graduates match the graduate outcomes.

### **Issues and concerns**

Due to the newness of this qualification and the recent nature of the arrangements with the NZDF it is too early to determine the value of the qualification to recruits. For instance, those who remain in the defence forces are unlikely to have yet capitalised on the value of holding the qualification. Those who may have gained the qualification but then left the defence force are unlikely to be in similar vocations.