TO: CEOs of: Tertiary Education Organisations
Industry Training Organisations

ATTENTION: Academic Managers
Quality Assurance & Qualification Development Managers
NZQA Moderation Liaison
NZQA Chief Executive's Examination Liaison

Update on the review of New Zealand Curriculum based standards,
Transition Arrangements, Consent to Assess, Moderation Best Practice Workshops 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 process affects Tertiary Education Organisations (TEOs) with consent to assess 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 (NZC).

This document provides updates and information on:
- Review of New Zealand Curriculum-based achievement and unit standards
- NZ Curriculum derived unit standards - Replacement Information and Proposed Expiry Dates
- Transition arrangements for NZ Curriculum-based unit and achievement standards
- Temporary exclusions list
- Assessment and moderation
- Consent to Assess
- Moderation Best Practice Workshops
- NCEA Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy requirements.

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: http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/publications/

Linda Glogau
Manager, Qualifications Development and Tertiary Moderation
Review of New Zealand Curriculum-based achievement and unit standards

From mid-2008, the MoE and the NZQA have been conducting a review of the New Zealand Curriculum-based standards to align them with the New Zealand Curriculum 2007\(^1\). The resulting NZ Curriculum-based standards will all be achievement standards.

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

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/.

Background

Background to this review was provided in Framework circulars:

- Review of New Zealand Curriculum derived achievement and unit standards [ref NQF2009/002] published 29 May 2009, and

- Update on the review of New Zealand Curriculum based standards, likely transition arrangements, and NCEA Level 1 literacy and numeracy requirements [ref NQF 2010/001] published 04 May 2010

These circulars are available on the NZQA website at http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/publications/newsletters-and-circulars/

Levels 1 and 2 Standards and Assessment Resources

Registered standards

The Level 1 reviewed achievement standards were all listed on the Directory of Assessment Standards in November 2010 and the Level 2 ones in November 2011.

Assessment Resources

For each new or significantly changed internally assessed standard, assessment resources and annotated exemplars of student work, to illustrate grade boundaries, have been produced.

Sample examination papers and annotated exemplars of student work have also been developed for the externally assessed standards.

All these materials and other supporting documentation and resources can be accessed from the NCEA Subjects page on the NZQA website through the following link http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/.

Level 3 Standards and Assessment Resources

Consultation on the draft Level 3 achievement standards occurred during August-September 2011.

\(^1\) The New Zealand Curriculum 2007 may be viewed at http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/The-New-Zealand-Curriculum
The post consultation draft standards were all published on the TKI website (http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/) by the end of February 2012. These standards are the basis for the assessment resources currently being developed and trialled. The standards have been watermarked as "Post Consultation Draft".

All available draft assessment resources for internally assessed standards and next versions of the standards will be published by 31 May as "Draft - For School Planning Purposes Only".

Resources for externally assessed standards are also being trialled. All of these resources will be placed on the NZQA website when they become available at the end of 2012.

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

Replacement information and expiry dates for replaced NZC based achievement and unit standards are being 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 (http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/).

Transition arrangements for NZ Curriculum-based unit and achievement standards

NZQA and the MoE 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 in place to ensure that accredited organisations have time to make adjustments to their programmes to take account of any expiring standards.

NZQA has consulted standard-setting bodies and made contact with other TEOs regarding the proposed expiry dates.

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.

NZQA have reviewed the current curriculum-based unit standards in each subject area in light of the reviewed achievement standards. The Level 2 information is available in the review reports. Level 3 information will be finalised as the review progresses. Replacement information and proposed expiry dates for each standard can be found within the “Alignment of Standards with the NZ Curriculum” TKI website (http://www.tki.org.nz/e/community/ncea/).

It is expected that the transition period for almost all of the NZC-based unit standards designated as expiring will be one year, i.e. they will expire at the end of the calendar year (31 December). This means that all the Level 2 unit standards can still be used in 2012.

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 previous Level 2 externally assessed achievement standards there are replacement externally assessed or internally assessed (where the mode has changed from external to internal via the review) achievement standards in 2012.
Replaced internally assessed achievement standards

Replaced internally assessed achievement standards have a one year transition period. This means that all the last versions of Level 2 internally assessed achievement standards can be still be used in 2012.

Temporary exclusions list

During the transition period, an exclusion list (see http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/standards/standards-exclusion-list/) is necessary to manage duplication. Specifically, the registration of achievement standards that recognise the same outcomes as other achievement or unit standards necessitates a mechanism to prevent ‘double dipping’. This means that when two standards are ‘mutually exclusive’ the credits for both cannot be used to achieve a qualification.

Assessment and moderation

Internally assessed achievement standards

Assessment of internally assessed achievement standards is similar to assessment for most unit standards however the design of assessment material and schedules must 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. The examination timetable is published in December of the prior year. See http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/ncea-exams-and-portfolios/external/national-secondary-examinations-timetable/ for this year’s (2012) timetable.

Providers, with consent to assess, intending to assess against externally assessed achievement standards and/or enter learners for examinations 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.

TEOs assessing against externally assessed achievement standards need to meet the requirements of the Assessment Rules and Procedures for Tertiary Education Organisations in relation to assessment against externally assessed achievement standards for the time being in force, see http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/

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/.

NZQA has also established subject specific pages (see http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/) which contain information and resources supporting assessment, including resources for externally assessed standards, of NZC derived standards.
Consent to Assess

TEOs need to be aware of the new Consent to assess against standards on the Directory of Assessment Standards Rules 2011 (made under section 253 of the Education Act 1989), particularly around the use of subcontractors and maintaining consent (see http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/consent-to-assess/)

Consent to Assess for fields, subfields, domains includes all achievement standards classified in the domains. When unit standards are reviewed and replaced by achievement standards, organisations with consent to assess are granted an extension of scope for the replacement achievement standards.

Consent to Assess Achievement Standards

The Consent to Assess and Moderation Requirements for achievement standards (for new consent to assess applications or ongoing consent to assess) is CMR 0233 http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/nqfdocs/maps/pdf/0233.pdf

Organisations with consent to assess 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 Guides2 (see http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz/).

Moderation Best Practice Workshops

Moderation Best Practice Workshops, delivered by NZQA secondary moderators, are available to schools and Tertiary Education Organisations in specific senior secondary school subjects. The focus of the workshops is to improve understanding of national standards through the use of student exemplars. For more information see http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/events/best-practice-workshops/.

NCEA Level 1 Literacy and Numeracy requirements

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

Two means of meeting the literacy and numeracy requirements are available. One is based on literacy and numeracy unit standards 26622-26627 (http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/explore/domain.do?frameworkId=76443#units) and the other is based on specified achievement standards that are deemed to include sufficient evidence of literacy or numeracy to satisfy the qualification requirements (see http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/legislation/nzqa-rules/secondary-schools-supporting-information/literacy-numeracy-2011/lit-num-subjects/).

NZQA has produced resources to assist with the planning, implementation and assessment of the level 1 Literacy and Numeracy unit standards (see http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/literacy-and-numeracy-level-1/)

---

2 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.