

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Fire and Rescue Services (Urban Fire and Rescue Operations) (Level 3)

Qualification number: 1835

Date of review: 29 May 2017

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

Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence of graduates who, while under limited supervision from a crew leader being able to:

- contribute to a number of functions within an urban fire and rescue team to assist the operational requirements of fire and rescue incidents, or aid incident reduction,
- safely enter a fire affected building and set up and use appropriate equipment and techniques to:
 - perform internal fire suppression
 - use salvage techniques to minimise damage
 - overhaul a structure with a team to prevent further damage
 - establish decontamination facilities to decontaminate people and equipment
 - ensure any potential evidence is recorded and secured to support fire cause investigations

This threshold is closely aligned to parts of the strategic purpose statement for the qualification. The threshold has been aligned to version 1 of the Qualification as this was version in use at the time and the version 2 outcomes differ significantly and would not reflect the 2014-2016 graduates.

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
The Skills Organisation	Sufficient
New Zealand Fire Service, National Training	Sufficient

Introduction

This level 3, 50 credit qualification provides the urban fire and rescue industry with personnel that have the knowledge and skills required to carry out a wide range of fire and rescue tasks. It builds on the New Zealand Certificate in Fire and Rescue services with strands in Airport, Urban Fire and Rescue Operations, and Vegetation level 2.

At the time of this review the two organisations presenting had 82 graduates for the qualification (covering 2014, 2015 and 2016 [2016 - Skills Organisation graduates only]) and both organisations attended the review meeting one being the qualification developer/provider Skills Organisation.

Evidence

The organisations provided a reasonable range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes. Evidence was provided of work on the job within the roles of learning in completely different contexts but that still met the consistency threshold criteria.

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 provided included:

Configuration of the programme to the Qualification

The New Zealand Fire Service presented evidence from processes in place for two programmes and from participants rather than from end users or specifically evaluated outcomes aligned to the New Zealand Certificate L3's graduate profile. This is partly attributable to the New Zealand Fire Service TAPS (Training and Progression System) programmes being broader than the NZQA-approved programmes.

The Skills Organisation was not actively involved in supporting training or in the assessment process for the four trainees reported in 2016. The trainees reported were inherited from EMQUAL. The Skills Organisation conducted a qualification completion check and applied it once they found the trainees.

Relevant 'real world' learning experiences

An overview of employment, work experience or engagement with either real or simulated 'real world' experiences in the urban fire and rescue operations industry was provided by New Zealand Fire Service. Engagement with real or simulated real world experiences was attested to via phone calls to graduates by The Skills Organisation.

Both education organisations noted that during their learning and roles the trainees and graduates must face authentic and very real hazards and use the skills learnt. The two providers

presenting were able to give evidence of that to show confidence in the graduates meeting the graduate profile outcomes.

Evidence of relevant 'real world' learning experiences included:

- Work engagement
- Work engagement via community events
- Fire and rescue volunteer work

Employer and Graduate Surveys and end user feedback

The New Zealand Fire Service noted overall evaluation processes largely draw on evidence from participants (i.e. students and trainers) rather than end users.

Level 3 participants were selected from the database of Skills Organisation and contacted by telephone and responses recorded. Questions were designed to gather information as to how well the graduates met the Graduate Profile Outcomes (GPO). Responses from the 3 graduates (Level 3)) were obtained and collated.

- 100% of graduates surveyed reported that they are confident in the 5 GPOs of the respective qualifications
- The attestation provided by the employer also corroborate that the graduates meet the GPOs of the respective qualifications

The evidence from graduate feedback, employer attestations and graduate destination supports the evidence given for outcomes.

Internal and External Moderation:

Internal moderation within the New Zealand Fire Service via field visits during 2015 indicate assessment practice observed in the career recruit and volunteer qualified firefighter practical courses was consistent, and moderators verified all assessment decisions. There are no records of EMQUAL internal moderation.

External moderation on a selection of Fire and Rescue unit standards with the New Zealand Fire Service was last completed with the EMQUAL in 2014. No internal or external moderation has been carried out on the Skills Organisation graduates as the trainees reported were inherited from EMQUAL.

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 demonstrated the graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold.

Discussion points of interest

A project is underway to establish Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), an amalgamation of the New Zealand Fire Service, the National Rural Fire Authority, 12 enlarged rural fire districts and 26 territorial rural fire authorities. A single amalgamated organisation will be set up from 1 July 2017.

Discussion of what the new education and training arrangements will be, how these relate to as yet undecided FENZ fire-fighting roles and ranks, and how these might relate to New

Final consistency review report

Zealand qualifications and ITO-managed unit standards is therefore at an early stage, with firm decisions sometime in the future.