

**Qualification Title:** New Zealand Certificate in Fire and Rescue Services (Urban Fire and Rescue Operations) (Level 4)

**Qualification number:** 1836

**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 under limited supervision from a crew leader being able to:

- Set up and use fire-fighting equipment required by the fire fighting team
- Apply appropriate techniques to safely manage a range of fire related incidents
- Work effectively in specialised fire related functions under the broad guidance of a CIMS function manager or an Incident Controller
- Manage a crew, maintain communication to report on incident progress and ensure routine team activities are carried out safely and correctly

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**

<b>Tertiary Education Organisation</b>	<b>Final rating</b>
The Skills Organisation	Sufficient
New Zealand Fire Service, National Training	Sufficient

**Introduction**

This level 4, 55 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 level 3.

At the time of this review the two organisations presenting had 80 graduates from this qualification (covering the years 2014, 2015 and [2106 Skills Organisation only]) and both organisations attended the review meeting one being the qualification developer/provider Skills Organisation New Zealand.

## **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 aligned eleven unit standards with graduate profile outcomes. Some of these were assessed within the full Senior Firefighter Training and Progression System programme (which included co-requisite studies in pump operation and first line management), others in pre-requisite programmes (Recruit and Qualified Fire-fighter).

The Skills Organisation was not actively involved in supporting training or in the assessment process for the one trainee reported in 2016 as this would have been the responsibility of another Industry Training Organisation and could not be verified.

#### **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**

New Zealand Fire Service overall evaluation processes largely draw on evidence from participants (i.e. trainees, graduates and trainers/controllers) rather than end users.

The one level 4 graduate reported by The Skills Organisation was inherited from EMQUAL. The Skills Organisation conducted a qualification completion check and applied it once they found the graduate. The graduate was selected from The Skills Organisation database and contacted by telephone and the responses to questions recorded. Questions were designed to gather information as to how well the graduate met the Graduate Profile Outcomes (GPOs). A response from the one graduate employed with the Auckland Regional Fire Authority was obtained.

- the graduate reports 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 graduates and participants, employer attestations and graduate destination supports the evidence given for meeting graduate 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.

No external moderation has been carried out since 2014 because of the EMQUAL/The Skills Organisation merger and therefore this aspect cannot be confirmed.

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

All available evidence presented before, at and subsequent to the review meeting and specific explanations during the presentation 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 fire fighting roles and ranks, and how these might relate to New Zealand qualifications and ITO-managed unit standards is therefore at an early stage, with firm decisions due sometime in the future.