

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Forest Harvesting Operations (Level 3) with strands in Basic Machine Operation, Tree Felling, Breaking Out - Cable, Breaking Out - Ground Based, Manual Processing, Log Scaling, Poleman, Production Thinning, and Quality Control

Qualification number: 2326

Date of review: 5 March 2018

Final decision on consistency of the qualification: National Consistency Confirmed

Threshold:

The threshold to determine sufficiency with the graduate profile was determined as evidence that in a commercial forest harvesting or log scaling operation within the role specified by their chosen strand and under limited supervision graduates can:

- a) Apply health and safety responsibilities, hazard management, emergency procedures and communication systems to maintain safety; and
- b) Protect personal wellbeing, team relationships and physical environment, including areas of cultural significance to Māori.

In addition to this, for strand:

Basic Machine Operations

- c) Operate, maintain and carry out basic repairs to forestry machinery.

Tree Felling

- c) Using conventional felling cuts, fell a range of tree sizes in varying locations; and
- d) Operate and maintain a chainsaw.

Breaking Out Cable

- c) Following head breaker out instructions, hook on trees to meet the breaking out plan.

Breaking Out – Ground Based

- c) Guide an extraction machine and hook on and break out trees.

Manual Processing

- c) Trim and cut out logs as marked by the log maker; and
- d) Operate and maintain a chainsaw.

Log Scaling

- c) Identify and measure log attributes, ensuring they meet specifications for a domestic or export log scaling operation.

Poleman

- c) Unhook stems in a cable harvesting landing operation.

Product Thinning

- c) Using conventional and advanced felling cuts, to thin trees in a range of situation; and

- d) Operate and maintain a chainsaw

Quality Control

- c) In a landing operation, ensure measured log specifications are met and re-grade where necessary to maximise value.

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Final decision on sufficiency of TEOs evidence, will be updated as other TEOs show sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Competenz	Sufficient
Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT)	Sufficient
Northland Institute of Technology (NorthTec)	Sufficient
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology	Sufficient
Te Runanga-o-Turanganui-a-Kiwa (Tūranga Ararau)	Sufficient
Te Wānanga o Aotearoa	Sufficient

Introduction

This qualification is intended to provide graduates with the skills and knowledge required to operate effectively in forest harvesting or log scaling operations within their chosen strand, and to understand safety, environmental and quality requirements. It will enable them to work under limited supervision to meet commercial productivity requirements.

This qualification has nine strands and ranges from 45 to 72 credits.

Evidence

The education organisations provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate profile outcomes. The evidence provided related to the robustness of the programme and its alignment with the graduate profile, feedback from students, graduate and industry, and destination data including graduate destinations and employer feedback.

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 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

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

There is a significant practical component in this qualification which is being implemented in a variety of contexts. In many cases students work alongside forestry or logging gangs.

While it was clear that close relationships exist between the local industry and the education organisations they need to maximise this to gain comprehensive feedback.

All programmes are unit standards based, which provides evidence of alignment with the qualification and the Graduate Profile Outcomes (GPOs). All institutes also use Competenz to moderate their theory and practical assessments, which again provides some consistency.

In most cases, the information submitted, including additional data requested, provided reasonable to convincing evidence that students met the threshold reflective of the graduate profile outcomes.

Special Focus

The qualification offers nine strands including Basic Machine Operation (1), Tree Felling (2), Breaking Out – Cable (3), Breaking Out – Ground Based (4), Manual Processing (5), Log Scaling (6), Poleman (7), Production Thinning (8), and Quality Control (9). Thirty of the credits are core, with 25 to 40 credits within the strands.

Examples of good practice

The close working relationship between three organisations strengthened their programmes through benchmarking, moderation and collegial support, and provides the opportunity for inter-organisational consistency checking.

Two organisations provided a summary and analysis of the results of their employer and graduate surveys, with one analysing educational performance indicator data and indicating what actions were to be taken. This evidenced good self-assessment practices and provided the reviewer with clear, well explained evidence to support the assertion that graduates met the qualification threshold.

One organisation provided statistical evidence from the graduate and employer survey to support each Graduate Outcome. This breakdown of the data and alignment with the GPOs provided robust evidence of the achievement of each from the perspective of both key groups. It also made it clear that survey results were being used to inform practice.

Issues and concerns

There are still some education organisations who view Consistency Reviews as a 'submitting documentation' exercise rather than part of the broader evaluative quality assurance practices. Consistency Reviews should evidence reflective practices and self-assessment and contribute to the External Evaluation and Review.

Where a qualification has strands, it would be useful to know how graduate employment relates to each. Education organisations recorded whether graduates were working in the forestry/harvesting/logging industries, but not whether they were in roles related to their chosen strand.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

Providers offered positive comment to the qualification developer. Some providers suggested that chainsaw operation and maintenance should be in most if not all strands as this reflected industry expectations. It was also felt that reference to 'production standards' in the Graduate Profile be clarified as this had varying meanings with varying assumptions and expectations.