

**Qualification Title:** New Zealand Diploma in Field Hydrology (Level 5)

**Qualification number:** 2344

**Date of review:** 29 May 2017

**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, the graduate working independently to:

- Design, install, verify operation of, and maintain a hydrometric monitoring station.
- Select and implement hydrometric techniques to measure and calculate open channel flow for a range of requirements.
- Retrieve, verify, process, and archive hydrometric data.
- Analyse hydrometric data to provide quality assured information for users.

#### Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Primary Industry Training Organisation	Sufficient

#### Introduction

Currently the Primary Industry Training Organisation (Primary ITO) is the only provider to have awarded this qualification. Fifteen people gained the New Zealand Certificate in Hydrology (Level 5) in 2016. All the graduates were in related employment and had several years of experience in the sector. Assessment occurred through a recognition of current competency (RCC) process developed by the Primary ITO in association with the New Zealand Hydrological Association. For this first group of candidates the Primary ITO registered assessors who were nominated by industry and endorsed by their employers and the New Zealand Hydrological Society.

#### Evidence

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

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**

- student feedback on the assessment process,
- employer feedback rating graduate performance against the graduate profile outcome statements and
- copies of assessments, the Candidate Evidence Collection Guide and the Assessors Guide
- one student's RCC assessment documentation,
- a list of graduates and assessors
- a list of graduates' employers
- confirmation that graduates carry out work independently.

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

The graduates are all long-standing employees in the industry and their competence was assessed through a RCC process. This process relied on portfolios demonstrating their work practice in relation to the graduate outcome. The ITO's confidence that the graduate outcomes have been met for this cohort of graduates relies heavily on the evidence portfolios. This reliance is reasonable given they reflect real work application of skills. The Candidate Evidence Collection Guide, the Assessors Guide and the one student portfolio provided demonstrate that the RCC process was comprehensive and well matched to the graduate outcomes. Clarity regarding the moderation process and supporting documentation was provided after the review.

The evidence from the employer survey supports, to some extent, the achievement of graduate outcomes.

Given the reliance on the portfolios to demonstrate consistency the quality of assessment is critical. The positions assessors hold in the industry and the confidence the industry had to recommend them reflects their expertise. Four of the assessors are team leaders in hydrology or related areas and one is a general manager. All assessors attended a post assessment moderation meeting with three Primary ITO staff, however it was not apparent what process the meeting used to moderate the assessment portfolios.

Being a level 5 qualification requires graduates to be able to demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within defined contexts and to have some responsibility for the management of learning and performance of others. A statement that all the graduates carry out their jobs independently was provided by the person who lead the initial assessments on behalf of the hydrology industry.

Overall the evidence provided, at and subsequent to the review meeting, makes a satisfactory case to demonstrating that graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold.

### **Examples of good practice**

Tailoring the employer survey to the graduate outcome

Use of the national association to help develop assessments and to nominate suitable assessors.

### **Recommendations to Qualification Developer**

Consider the viability of the New Zealand Diploma in Field Hydrology as a standalone qualification.