

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Pest Operations (Level 3) with strands in Rural Pest Control, Rural Pest Monitoring, and Urban Pest Control.

Qualification number: 2443

Date of review: 30/04/2018

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, while maintaining health and safety in a range of conditions in rural or urban (built) environments and under limited supervision, graduates can:

- a) Identify the purpose and impacts of pest operations; and
- b) Communicate, record and report information as required for the workplace.

In addition to this –

In a rural environment, graduates of the Rural Pest Control strand can:

- c) Operate vehicles; and
- d) Identify and control relevant pest types.

In an urban (built) environment, graduates of the Urban Pest Control strand can:

- c) Identify, control and monitor commonly found pests.

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Community Services ITO (Careerforce)	Sufficient
Primary ITO	Sufficient

Introduction

This qualification is intended to provide graduates who are working or intend to work in the pest operations industry with the skills and knowledge required to remain safe while carrying out pest control for the purposes of biosecurity, conservation, and public health and enjoyment. It will enable them to work under limited supervision to carry out pest control or pest monitoring in a rural environment, or pest control in and/or around built environments. This qualification has three strands and ranges from 40 to 60 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 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

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. Students are employed and undertake their learning and assessments in a practical realistic context.

While it was clear that close relationships exist between the local industry and the education organisation this needs to be maximised to gain comprehensive feedback on graduates' level of achievement against the Graduate Outcomes.

Special Focus

The qualification offers three strands, namely Rural Pest Control (60 credits), Rural Pest Monitoring (60 credits) and Urban Pest Control (40 credits). Twenty credits are core, with 20 to 40 credits within the strands. One organisation offered the Urban Pest Control strand, while the other the Rural Pest Control strand. Neither offered the Rural Pest Monitoring strand.

One organisation had 24 graduates in 2016 and 39 in 2017; and the other 87 graduates in 2017.

Examples of good practice

One organisation provided convincing evidence of particularly robust processes to ensure programme quality, particularly assessment and moderation, as well as a range of evidence that covered programme alignment, student and graduate feedback and destination data.

The evidence provided was clear and accompanied by a narrative which created coherence and directed the reviewer to pertinent aspects of the submission.

Both organisation evidenced self-assessment practices, using the consistency review as an opportunity to reflect on areas for improvement.

Issues and concerns

For one organisation evidence of employer input and graduate destinations was not strong in spite of having close relationships with their industry. Graduate feedback was also lacking.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

It was suggested that the wording of the Graduate Profile Outcomes be reviewed; changing references to 'a pest type' to 'relevant pest types'.