

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Bituminous Surfacing Construction (Level 4) with strands in Bituminous Mixes, Chipseal, and Slurry

Qualification number: 2686

Date of review: 31 July 2018

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:

Capable staff who have the knowledge and skills to:

- Identify hazards and take precautions to maintain safety and the environment.
- Apply knowledge of bituminous surfacings, materials, and plant and equipment used for bituminous surfacing construction operations.
- Apply knowledge of control measures to ensure quality products are produced on-site.
- Identify and notify the nature and extent of site works.
- Construct quality bituminous surfacing.

Tertiary Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Tertiary Education Organisation	Final rating
Infrastructure ITO (Connexis)	Sufficient

Introduction

The purpose of this level 4 qualification is to provide the infrastructure works industry with capable staff who have the knowledge and skills to construct quality bituminous surfacing. Graduates require 70 credits to gain the qualification, regardless of the strand they are assessed against.

The Infrastructure Industry Training Organisation, Connexis is the sole tertiary education organisation (TEO) providing a training programme that leads to the award of this qualification. A Connexis representative presented at the review meeting an explanation and evidence of how their graduates matched the graduate profile outcomes. Connexis is also the developer of the qualification and another Connexis representative participated in the review in this role.

Connexis supplied evidence of 17 individuals who had graduated with the qualification in 2017.

Evidence

The education organisation 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.

The evidence provided included:

- Records listing the 17 graduates, the qualification strands they completed and the infrastructure companies where they were employed in bituminous surfacing related roles, at the time of their graduation. All of the graduates for the 2017 cohort were assessed through an RCC (Recognition of Current Competence) process. This process included assessment of a portfolio of evidence and professional discussions by an RCC-endorsed industry assessor.
- A survey of employers conducted in June 2018. There were five respondents from different employer sites from within four overarching employer companies. All respondent employers agreed that they were satisfied that their employees met the graduate profile outcomes and were proficient at their job at the completion of the qualification. The employer graduate survey also confirmed that the workplace assessment process was suitable and sufficient to confirm graduates already had or did gain the skills and knowledge outlined in the unit standards in the Programme of Industry Training (PIT) leading to the qualification.
- A survey of graduates conducted in June 2018. There were seven respondents from the 17 graduates who were surveyed (7/17 = 41 per cent response rate); this response rate gives a satisfactory indication of the graduates' views. The survey questions were systematically mapped in a matrix against the mandatory graduate prolife outcomes.
- A Connexis customer satisfaction survey provided more general feedback on the trainees' experience conducted in the period from November 2016 through to February 2017. It is not clear how many and what proportion of the 17 graduates of this qualification responded to this survey.
- A moderation summary showing that assessment portfolios of four of the 17 RCC graduates were post-assessment moderated by bituminous surfacing industry expert moderators. Two examples of post-assessment moderation reports were also provided from the review period.
- A copy of the civil works qualification pathways and the approved PIT that the TEO offers that leads to this qualification.
- A support letter from the Connexis Civil Industry Manager, attesting that Connexis's Customer Service Account Managers (CSAMs) regularly report on the industry feedback and uptake and completion of this qualification.
- The formal Consent and Moderation Requirements for unit standards within the PIT towards this qualification and the policies and procedures of the education organisation that give effect to these requirements.

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

The evidence (listed in order of significance) that supports that the 2017 graduate group met the determined threshold was:

- All 17 reported graduates were working in civil works industry roles at the time of their graduation. This is strong and highly relevant evidence.
- 41 percent of the graduates responded to an online survey, where all stated they were somewhat confident to highly confident they meet the profile outcomes, including for the strands. This response rate is satisfactory and provides good support.
- Employer survey results, as well as feedback from CSAMs, also supports that graduates are meeting the graduate outcomes.
- The graduates were assessed against authentic procedures from the workplace to meet the prescribed unit standards within an approved PIT that maps unit standards against the graduate profile outcomes. The assessment materials used had been pre-moderated by industry experts. This is clear and highly relevant evidence. The educational organisation has a moderation plan and procedures to support the moderation of assessment. Evidence provided confirmed that the moderation of RCC assessments is robust and effective.

Overall the evidence and analysis provided this a convincing case to demonstrate that the graduates match the graduate outcomes at the determined threshold.

Notes of interest

The Connexis representatives explained that as part of the current review of this qualification, feedback had been received from stakeholders that will result in some changes being made. These changes are likely to include the removal of the strands in favour of an additional 'core' graduate outcome relating to the construction of quality bituminous surfacing. The purpose of such a change would be to realistically reflect the roles and tasks in the workplace, and at the same time future-proof the qualification.

The potential change to the qualification strands is reflected in the threshold statement developed for use during this consistency review.

Examples of good practice

The survey questions were clearly mapped against the graduate outcomes. The justification outlined in the self-assessment summary made a range of relevant points to support the case that the graduates met the graduates profile outcomes. There was a clear record of the graduates, their role, their company and the strand they completed.