

**Qualification Title:** New Zealand Certificate in Civil Works with strands in Earthworks, Road Construction, Concrete (non-structural), and Road Maintenance (Level 4)

**Qualification number:** 2688

**Date of review:** 3 April 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:

The graduates have the skills and knowledge to safely construct and maintain civil infrastructure works (on either earthwork, road constructions, road maintenance or concrete (non-structural) construction), up to industry standards on a range of dynamic work sites under broad guidance.

**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 individuals who are able to safely construct and maintain civil infrastructure on a range of work sites. Graduates require 75-90 credits to gain the qualification, with the number of credits required depending on the four qualification strands they are assessed against: Earthworks, Road Construction, Road Maintenance and Concrete (non-structural).

The Infrastructure Industry Training Organisation, Connexis is the sole tertiary education organisation providing a training programme that awards 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 48 individuals who had graduated with the qualification in 2015 and 2016.

**Evidence**

The TEO 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 TEO

- 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 TEO 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:

- Trainee data records listing the 48 graduates, the qualification strands they completed and the infrastructure companies where they were employed in civil works related roles, at the time of their graduation.
- Letters from two key industry bodies, The Civil Trades Board and Civil Contractors New Zealand that expressed confidence that the graduates met the graduate profile outcomes by designated assessors.
- The formal Consent and Moderation Requirements for this qualification and the contents page of the policies and procedures of the education organisation that give effect to these requirements. These confirm that the graduates were assessed in a real workplace environment by designated assessors.
- A spreadsheet showing that 54 of the 64 submitted assessments or internal moderation plans, for the period from 2014 through early 2017 met the required standard. Three samples of moderated assessments were also provided from the review period.
- A survey of graduates conducted in March 2017. Six responded from the apparently 48 graduates who were surveyed (6/48 = 13 per cent response rate); this response rate gives some indication of the graduates' views. The survey questions were systematically mapped in a matrix against the mandatory graduate profile outcomes. All six respondents stated they were confident or very confident they met all of these outcomes. However, there were no survey questions related to the graduate profile outcomes of the four qualification strands.
- 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 48 graduates of responded to this survey.
- A copy of the civil engineering qualification pathways and the approved training programme that leads to this qualification that the education organisation offers to graduates.

**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 2015 and 2016 graduate group met the appropriate threshold was:

- All 48 reported graduates were working in infrastructure works industry roles at the time of their graduation. This is strong and highly relevant evidence.
- Two key industry organisations provided attestations stating they thought the graduates met the graduate profile outcomes. This is good and relevant evidence. There was no direct feedback collected from employers, which is a gap that needs to be addressed in the future.
- Thirteen percent of the graduates responded to an online survey, where all stated they were confident or highly confident they meet the profile outcomes. This response rate is

reasonable and provides some qualified support. Including the strands in future surveys would strengthen the evidence.

- The graduates were assessed performing authentic tasks in the workplace to meet the prescribed unit standard. The assessment materials used had been pre-moderated, a part of an approved programme that maps units against the graduate profile outcomes. This is clear and highly relevant evidence. The educational organisation has a moderation plan and procedures to support the moderation of assessment. Some additional evidence and analysis was supplied of the moderation activity that took place and moderation results. The extra evidence outlined actions taken related to the moderation results.

Overall the evidence and analysis provided does make a convincing case to demonstrate that the graduates match the graduate outcomes at the appropriate threshold.

### **Special Focus**

There was no special focus.

### **Examples of good practice**

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

### **Recommendations to Qualification Developer**

Amend the strategic purpose statement so that graduates work 'under board guidance' rather as currently stated, 'with limited supervision'. The review meeting agreed that this describes what happens in practice and this is the appropriate for a level 4 graduate.