

Qualification Title: New Zealand Certificate in Forest Industry Operations (Planning and Monitoring) (Level 4) with strands in Harvesting, Inventory, and Silviculture

Qualification number: 2330

Date of review: 16 October 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:

Graduates being able to work in supervisory roles in forest operations, with responsibility for the safe, efficient, and productive operation of forestry employees, plant and equipment.

Graduates with the Harvesting strand are also able to apply environmental management and landing management in a forest harvesting operation.

Graduates with the Silviculture strand are also able to use prescription maps to plan and manage quality control in a forest silviculture operation.

Education Organisations with sufficient evidence

Education Organisation	Final rating
Competenz	Sufficient

Introduction

The purpose of this qualification is to provide the forest industry with individuals who have the advanced skills and knowledge to be employed in a supervisory role in a forestry, mensuration or harvesting operation. The qualification has three strands and ranges from 50 to 64 credits.

Competenz, the Industry Training Organisation (ITO) was the only education organisation awarding the qualification. A Competenz representative presented at the review meeting an explanation and evidence of how their graduates matched the graduate outcomes.

Competenz is also the developer of the qualification and another Competenz representative participated in the review in this role.

There were 62 graduates in the review period from 2015- 2017. The Harvesting strand was achieved by 55 graduates, and the Silviculture strand was achieved by 12 graduates. Five graduates completed two strands. No graduates achieved the Inventory strand.

Evidence

The education organisation provided a range of evidence to demonstrate that their graduates met the graduate outcomes. The evidence provided, related to the robustness of the programme and its alignment with the graduate profile; evidence included feedback from graduates and employers and graduate destination data.

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 education 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 from the education organisation included:

Programme-related evidence

- A programme outline showing which unit standards mapped against the qualification's graduate profile outcomes.
- A pre-moderated ITO-developed assessment guide and model answers for an example unit standard.
- A record of the moderation activity and results since 2015, showing that most assessors and a sample of unit standards have been recently moderated. Generally, moderation confirmed the assessment judgments made. The education organisation has appropriate procedures in place to address any issues.

Stakeholder feedback evidence

Surveys of the graduates and their employers asked each stakeholder to rate (on a scale of 1 to 10), how well the graduates demonstrated each of the graduate profile outcomes. The survey response rates were 50% (31 of 62 graduates) and 64% (27 of 42 employers) and the sample size was sufficient to make reasonable judgements about the graduates. Both the employers and graduates stated that graduates demonstrated each of the graduate profile outcomes, though the graduates consistently rated their level of competency higher than their employers.

Destination evidence

Evidence was provided that 60% of graduates were employed in forest industry operation roles, matching the expected employment pathways for this qualification.

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

The training and assessment of the 62 graduates took place in forest industry operation workplaces. This context provided a strong source of real-world evidence to demonstrate the graduates had matched the graduate profile. 60% of the graduates were working in

forest industry operation roles when the survey was conducted. This was good evidence that the graduates had followed the expected employment pathway.

Competenz had developed and pre-moderated the industry training and assessment materials. There was good evidence that the training, assessment and moderation was robust, and this provided confidence in the capability of these graduates.

There was also a clear consensus among the employer and graduate survey respondents that graduates had demonstrated the graduate profile outcomes. The combined evidence along with the analysis undertaken provided a convincing case that the graduates match the graduate profile outcomes at the appropriate threshold.

Examples of good practice

The education organisation provided convincing evidence of robust processes to ensure programme quality. Alongside assessment and moderation was a range of evidence that covered programme alignment, graduate and employer 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. Evidence of self-assessment practices was included, using the consistency review as an opportunity to reflect on areas for improvement.

Recommendations to Qualification Developer

It was suggested that the wording of the Strategic Purpose Statement and Graduate Profile Outcomes be reviewed; changing references to 'forestry operations' to 'forest operations' for consistency throughout the qualification.