

CONSENT AND MODERATION REQUIREMENTS (CMR) for Journalism

(version 4)

From the 4th October 2021 these standards will be managed by a WDC. Please contact the relevant WDC if you have any questions.

Notes:

The WDCs will not be charging for any external moderation activities.
The CMRs will be fully updated by the WDCs over the coming months.

Contact

Toi Mai WDC

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Arts and Crafts > Electronic Media

Domain	Standard IDs
Radio	10183, 10231, 10234, 10235, 10308, 10309, 10313, 10319, 10320, 26553, 26554

Community and Social Services > Journalism

Domain	Standard IDs
Preliminary Journalism Skills	27610-27617

Requirements for Consent to Assess (RCA)

Introduction

The purpose of the Requirements for Consent to Assess (RCA) is to set out the nature of the process for granting consent to assess and involvement of the standard setting body (SSB) and others in the process, and to set out the SSB's industry or sector-specific requirements for a tertiary education organisation (TEO)¹ or school's quality systems in relation to the gazetted "criteria for accreditation".

Competenz will take a positive approach in its dealings with organisations applying for consent to assess. Competenz recognises the merits of having a diverse tertiary sector with a range of vocational pathways and delivery options that cater to varying learner needs. In evaluating applications by organisations for consent to assess, Competenz takes into account the following factors:

¹ Tertiary education organisation (TEO) includes public and private tertiary education providers, industry training organisations, government training organisations, and other providers.

- Maintaining the consistency and credibility of qualifications and standards.
- The expectations and characteristics of the industry for which standards or qualifications have been designed.
- The desirability of multiple entry and exit points on qualification pathways.
- Alignment of programmes to existing training pathways and access to further qualifications.
- Ensuring learners receive high quality training that prepares them for assessment against standards.
- The organisation's history of compliance with NZQA quality assurance requirements.
- Previous evidence of the organisation's history of training and meeting moderation requirements.
- For standards designed specifically for industry, the organisation's ability to arrange genuine workplace practice for standards designed to assess capability under workplace conditions.

Competenz is an advocate of best practice in assessment and will provide advice to organisations wishing to assess against its standards. In supporting an application for consent to assess, Competenz looks for evidence that the applicant organisation has the means to ensure that assessment decisions made by the organisation's assessors are consistent with the national standard.

Standard Setting Body involvement in process for granting consent to assess

Levels 1 and 2 Evaluation of documentation by NZQA and industry

Levels 3-7 Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry

Visit waiver conditions

Participation in a consent to assess visit may be waived by Competenz under the following circumstances:

- when the application for consent to assess has been prepared in consultation with Competenz and is supported by Competenz; and/or
- when, in the opinion of Competenz, the applicant organisation's history of providing credible training and assessment against the standards covered by the application is well known to Competenz; and/or
- when the scope of the application is sufficiently narrow that Competenz considers a visit is not warranted; and/or
- when the Competenz evaluator of the application documentation is satisfied that any additional information required can be gained by another means (e.g. letter, telephone, e-mail).

Where industry participation in a consent to assess visit is waived, Competenz will confirm that decision in writing.

Areas of shared responsibility

None.

Fees for SSB involvement in process for granting consent to assess

Competenz may choose to charge fees for its involvement in granting consent to assess (see Fees Schedule in Funding section). Contact Competenz for further information.

Additional fees can be charged by [NZQA](#), and the Committee for University Academic Programmes (CUAP) for involvement in granting consent to assess. Contact the relevant quality assurance body (QAB) for information.

General requirements for accreditation

These are the general requirements for accreditation of providers gazetted in 1993. Applicants should consult their QAB ([NZQA](#) or CUAP) for details of the requirements.

Criterion 1 Development and evaluation of teaching programmes

There is a system for developing coherent teaching programmes and for their evaluation, which should include evaluation by learners/consumers.

Criterion 2 Financial, administrative and physical resources

Adequate and appropriate financial and administrative resources will be maintained to enable all necessary activities to be carried out.

Adequate, appropriate and accessible physical resources will be available for supporting students to meet the required standards.

Criterion 3 Staff selection, appraisal and development

A teaching staff with the necessary knowledge and skills will be maintained through staff selection, appraisal, and development.

Criterion 4 Student entry

There is a system for establishing and clearly publicising student entry requirements that include no unreasonable barriers.

Criterion 5 Student guidance and support systems

Students have adequate access to appropriate guidance and support systems.

Criterion 6 Off-site practical or work-based components

There are arrangements for ensuring that any off-site practical or work-based components are fully integrated into the relevant programmes.

Criterion 7 Assessment

There is a system for ensuring that assessment is fair, valid, and consistent.

Criterion 8 Reporting

There is a system for providing students with fair and regular feedback on progress and fair reporting on final achievements, with an associated appeals procedure.

There is a reliable system for archiving information on final student achievements.

These sector-specific requirements provide evidence that the applicant organisation has the capacity to be a provider of quality training that meets industry requirements. They are designed to give industry confidence that the credibility of its registered standards will be maintained.

Criterion 1 Development and evaluation of teaching programmes

The applicant organisation must have policies, procedures, and review and evaluation mechanisms in place to ensure its programmes are designed and delivered to meet the needs of the industry, employers, employees, and/or prospective employees.

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that:

- the standards-based programmes it wishes to offer are clearly identified and an internal development planning process is followed;
- on-going liaison with industry occurs. It is recommended that industry be involved through an established industry liaison process;
- industry input is considered in the development and delivery of teaching programmes and resources, all of which must demonstrate a clear link with standards;
- the teaching programme mirrors the working environment appropriate to the standards being assessed against;
- student and industry feedback are taken into account in evaluating programme quality and outcomes.

Criterion 2 Financial, administrative and physical resources

Specialist equipment is required for some standards. The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that the equipment and teaching resources are adequate for the requirements of the standards before courses/programmes are commenced.

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that:

- appropriate facilities and necessary equipment, resources, and training aids to deliver programmes assessing against the standards specified in the scope of the application are available;
- hard and/or soft copies of library resources, including books, journals and newspapers, and dictionaries, are available;
- any prescribed texts are available;
- students are able to access the necessary resources during their course of study at a time that recognises the flexible hours of industry;
- access to high speed internet facilities is available;

- class size reflects the requirements of journalism teaching and assessment. (Journalism teaching and assessment requires a high level of one-to-one teaching). Experience has shown that to meet journalism industry standards an overall ratio of one tutor to 12 students is usually desirable.

It is recommended that the applicant organisation establish a formal agreement with industry sectors so that material published in print, radio, and television, or posted on the internet, can be used as teaching aids without risk of copyright infringement. Major media outlets have standard procedures in place to facilitate use of material for training.

Criterion 3 Staff selection, appraisal and development

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that staff engaged in delivery of training and assessment:

- have completed training in standards-based assessment. They must have gained credit for unit 4098, *Use standards to assess candidate performance*; and may hold either unit 7114, *Coach adult learner(s)*, or unit 11552, *Design and evaluate assessment materials*;
- hold a qualification relevant to the domains they are teaching in or standards at or above the level at which they are required to teach and/or assess, or possess current equivalent knowledge and skills to assess against the standards for which consent to assess is being sought;
- demonstrate industry experience and knowledge relevant to the area they are teaching in.

Staff may also hold, or be working towards, a qualification in adult education and assessment (for example, the *New Zealand Certificate in Adult and Tertiary Teaching (Level 4)* [Ref: 2746], a New Zealand-recognised teaching qualification, or are able to demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills. It is also recommended that they are involved in ongoing professional development, including opportunities to keep up-to-date with legislative and technological requirements and best industry practice in the sector.

Competenz will assist organisations wishing to confirm relevant experience and qualifications and provides a list of recognised qualifications on its web site (<http://www.competenz.org.nz>).

Criterion 4 Student entry

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that students entering a programme of study have sufficient literacy and numeracy skills for them to understand all requirements, instructions, and communications necessary to complete the programme. All requirements in the standards must be able to be communicated, comprehended, and demonstrated by the students.

Criterion 6 Off-site practical or work-based components

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that off-site practical or work-based activities are covered by the health and safety policies and

procedures of the host organisation, and meet the requirements of health and safety at work legislation.

Use of other establishments by the applicant organisation for training and assessment

Where learners are required to receive training off-site with another establishment, applicant organisations must have policies and procedures that cover such arrangements, including a memorandum of agreement or contract between the applicant organisation and the off-site establishment which clearly states:

- the nature of the training the learners are to receive;
- responsibility for safety of the tutors and learners;
- the time and frequency of the learners' attendance;
- the name and relevant details of the student(s) attending specific off-site locations;
- a procedure which gathers information from the off-site establishment that allows the applicant organisation to make valid progress and assessment judgments;
- how feedback on learners' progress from the off-site establishment is documented;
- support mechanisms from the applicant organisation for both the student and the off-site establishment for the duration of the training;
- responsibility for undertaking assessment and reporting results.

When off-site facilities or resources are to be used, the applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that appropriate equipment, resources, and workplace environment for practical assessments are available.

Use of the workplace for training and assessment

Where work placements are to be used by an applicant organisation to contribute towards training and assessment, there should be clear links between classroom-underpinning knowledge and structured on-site learning. The applicant organisation must have policies, procedures, and review mechanisms that ensure:

- adequate supervision of learners in the workplace;
- that assessment draws on evidence from workplace experience (organisations may contact Competenz for access to workplace assessment guides that have undergone pre-assessment moderation and other resources);
- that work placements are genuinely focused on training and are not a means of unpaid labour;
- that industry expectations, safety procedures, appropriate standards of hygiene, and other specific requirements are met.

Criterion 7 Assessment

Competenz supports NZQA *Best Practice Principles for the Assessment of Unit Standards*, available at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/Providers-and-partners/Assessment-and-moderation/Assessment-of-standards/bestpract-us.pdf>.

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that assessment activities meet the national external moderation requirements.

Criterion 8 Reporting

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that credit achievement is reported to NZQA within three months of the completion of assessment.

Non-compliance with requirements for maintaining consent to assess

Where there is evidence of non-compliance with the requirements for consent to assess, the QAB (NZQA or CUAP) will seek remedial action. In cases where this action is ineffective and non-compliance continues, or in cases of repeated non-compliance, the QAB will take action that can ultimately lead to the withdrawal of consent to assess.

Implementation

Competenz is able to provide sufficient trained participants to service the requirements of processes for granting consent to assess.

Moderation Requirements (MR)

A centrally established and directed national external moderation system has been set up by Competenz.

Introduction

The purpose of the Moderation Requirements (MR) is to provide details on the national external moderation system, developed by Competenz, to ensure that assessment decisions of TEOs and schools with consent to assess are consistent with the national standard. All TEOs and schools with consent to assess against the standards in this CMR must meet the requirements for moderation outlined in this MR.

Moderation System

Competenz requires organisations with consent to assess to participate in Competenz' moderation systems where Competenz' standards are being used. Standards due for moderation will be published annually on Competenz' web site. Competenz will also publish information on how Competenz will select standards for moderation and the nature of moderation that will be used. Organisations will be contacted directly by Competenz when they are due for post-assessment moderation.

The design of the Competenz external moderation system takes into account how assessment typically occurs, the characteristics of the industry or sector, the risks associated with inconsistent assessment decisions, and issues regarding the cost effectiveness and manageability of a particular system. Moderation advice is provided to Competenz by industry advisory groups and specialist Moderators where required.

Competenz is responsible for:

- implementation of the national external moderation system;
- producing an Annual Moderation Plan and publishing it on the Competenz web site;
- moderation of assessments carried out by organisations with consent to assess;
- ensuring organisations being moderated have adequate notice of standards that have been selected for moderation;
- preparing an annual report for NZQA evaluating the moderation system and results of moderation activities;
- organising and coordinating the preparation of moderation materials and moderation meetings;
- providing professional development and support for organisations with consent to assess.

Organisations with consent to assess are responsible for:

- following the requirements of the Competenz CMR with respect to Competenz standards;
- ensuring assessment records are complete;
- ensuring copies of assessment evidence are kept for at least 12 months so they are available for moderation by Competenz if required;
- submitting materials to Competenz for moderation, when requested, by the specified date.

Moderation principles

Competenz' moderation system is based on the established Best Practice Principles of Moderation.

Principle 1: Selection	Best practice moderation will occur when the standards selected for moderation provide a sufficiently representative sample of the assessed standards.
Principle 2: Measurement	Best practice moderation will occur when the moderation accurately measures the assessment against the stated standard.
Principle 3: Reporting	Best practice moderation will occur when there is constructive and informative reporting of moderation outcomes.
Principle 4: Monitoring	Best practice moderation will occur when there is ongoing monitoring of the moderation system.

Principle 5: Review Best practice moderation will occur when there is regular review of the moderation system.

In moderation, Competenz sets out to:

- support assessment that is fair, valid, and consistent;
- detect variance from the national standard and keep variance to a minimum;
- reflect the culture of a particular industry;
- protect the integrity and reputation of qualifications;
- create a moderation system that is supportive of assessors and trainers;
- ensure learners are not disadvantaged by the assessment and moderation process;
- provide organisations with consent to assess with constructive feedback.

Integral to all principles of best practice moderation are the relevant skills and experience of the participants within the moderation system. Competenz will provide ongoing professional advice in support of its standards. Organisations with consent to assess will be given help to benchmark their assessments against the rest of the sector through moderation processes.

Further advice about assessment or moderation of Competenz standards can be sought from Competenz, while advice about general aspects of assessment or moderation can be sought from NZQA.

National External Moderation Activities

The key focus for the national external moderation system is to ensure that assessment decisions of TEOs, schools, and other organisations with consent to assess are consistent with the national standard. Organisations with consent to assess must engage with Competenz in moderation activities. Competenz is responsible for ensuring that the national external moderation system is manageable, supportive, and cost effective for users.

Moderation process

Every year, Competenz will publish an annual moderation plan in accordance with NZQA requirements. The moderation plan identifies standards that will be selected for moderation and the processes that will be used to engage with organisations with consent to assess. This information is made available to all organisations in January each year on the Competenz web site.

The moderation activities that Competenz may use include:

- pre-assessment moderation of resources and assessment guides;
- post-assessment moderation;
- moderation workshops;
- peer moderation;
- observed moderation.

Competenz may agree to alternative approaches to moderation with organisations presenting innovative situations where usual methods of moderation are less likely to achieve the desired outcome.

Pre-assessment moderation

Organisations with consent to assess who develop their own assessment materials for Competenz' standards must ensure that materials have undergone pre-assessment moderation in accordance with their internal moderation system prior to submission to Competenz for approval. The assessment materials must also be submitted to Competenz for pre-assessment moderation and approval before they are used. Assessment material submitted for pre-assessment moderation is allocated to a Competenz-registered moderator who has industry-specific moderation capability. The material is evaluated and a report is provided to the organisation seeking approval.

Competenz requires all Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), Recognition of Current Competence (RCC), or similar accelerated assessment processes developed by organisations using Competenz standards to undergo pre-assessment moderation and approval by Competenz.

Assessment tools must cover the outcomes of any Competenz standards that are used. Developers should consult with the Competenz Quality Assurance team in the development of such processes.

Competenz is supportive of innovation and good instructional design in organisation-developed resources. Material submitted for pre-assessment moderation will be received in confidence and treated in a manner that respects the owners' intellectual property. Competenz reserves the right to charge for this service. Charges are set out in Competenz' funding schedule on its web site and in the Funding section of this CMR.

Competenz is available to discuss moderation with any organisation and provide the direct assistance of a moderator if required.

In many instances, Competenz has assessment and training resources available for organisations to use that have undergone pre-assessment moderation and approval. These resources are user friendly and have been developed using the best principles of instructional design. There may be a charge for some resources and organisations should contact Competenz for further information on both resources and charges.

Post-assessment moderation

The Competenz Moderation Manager is responsible for ensuring that all requests for post-assessment moderation are complied with.

All organisations with consent to assess are required to participate in post-assessment moderation each year.

Post-assessment moderation process

Competenz will select standards for moderation based on the NZQA usage reports of assessments carried out by the organisation with consent to assess for the previous 12 months. Organisations will be notified of standards due for moderation in the first quarter of each year. Criteria for the selection of standards for the annual moderation schedule are based on:

- standards reported by organisations which recently gained consent to assess;
- standards reported by organisations that have recently changed ownership;
- standards involving high risk;
- high-use standards;
- new standards, or new versions;
- standards that have not been recently moderated;
- recommendations from Advisory Groups;
- recommendations from organisations with consent to assess;
- identified assessment problems.

Copies of original documents should be submitted whenever possible.

The level of moderation required and the selection of standards depends on a combination of:

- the total number of assessments being carried out by the organisation;
- the number of standards being assessed against by the organisation;
- the moderation history of the organisation;
- any other contributing quality assurance factors or requirements.

Assessment material required for moderation includes but is not limited to:

- assessment guides and completed schedules;
- evidence submitted by candidates, including completed workbooks, projects, photographs, or other forms of evidence. This evidence needs to include work which was assessed as:
 - clearly competent;
 - requiring significant assessor judgement to establish whether competent (borderline); and
 - clearly not yet competent;
- questions and model answers;
- clear documentation of verification or attestation;
- any other supporting evidence deemed relevant.

Moderation visits

Each year, Competenz may visit and review a sample of TEOs and schools with consent to assess. Visits may occur at the request of the organisation, or as a consequence of contractual arrangements where the provider is acting on behalf of Competenz. Competenz may also initiate visits where an organisation has experienced issues with moderation (see Non-compliance with moderation requirements section for details). Moderation visits may be charged for (see Funding section for details).

A site visit may include:

- sampling of assessment evidence;
- observation of assessment activity;
- discussion with the organisation with consent to assess on improvements to assessment practice.

Feedback will be provided by a report, for support and guidance purposes as well as to specify any actions required to bring about compliance with moderation requirements. This forms part of the organisation with consent to assess' overall moderation result for the year.

Appointment of Moderators

Moderators are appointed for each industry sector by Competenz. They must be suitably qualified, meet the requirements set out by the relevant Competenz industry advisory group, and hold Unit 11551, *Moderate assessment*. Moderators are required to participate in Competenz professional development and support as required. National External Moderation activities may include:

- writing moderation reports;
- undertaking visits arranged by Competenz or at the request of organisations with consent to assess;
- managing peer moderation.

Moderation reports

Moderation reports will be sent to organisations within three weeks of a moderation event. Reports will include:

- a moderation outcome statement;
- an evaluation of the assessment material;
- an evaluation of evidence against the moderated standard(s);
- any remedial actions identified, including timeframes for their implementation.

Confidentiality

Competenz and external moderators are required to ensure the security and confidentiality of assessment material and candidate work received for moderation. Competenz will return assessment materials back to the organisation with consent to assess once the moderation activities have concluded.

Moderation Advice

For any issues arising out of assessment or moderation, organisations with consent to assess may contact:

Quality Assurance Manager
 Competenz
 PO Box 9005,
 Newmarket
 Auckland 1149
 Telephone 0800 526 1800
 Fax 09 539 9899
 Email QA@competenz.org.nz

Each organisation with consent to assess should have a named person for moderation contact with Competenz.

Reporting

Competenz is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of its national external moderation system, and for providing an annual report to NZQA.

Competenz will monitor the effectiveness of the national external moderation system through periodic reviews and inform the industry advisory groups of general trends, findings, and anomalies arising from moderation.

Funding

Competenz funds its external moderation system from the National Moderation transfer from NZQA, fees charged to organisations with consent to assess, and industry contributions.

Organisations with consent to assess will be responsible for funding their participation in national external moderation activities. This includes costs associated with gathering and sending assessment materials to Competenz. Every effort will be made to ensure that the moderation system is cost efficient as well as effective.

Competenz fees for moderation are listed on the Competenz Moderation and Consent to Assess Fee Schedule below and published on the Competenz web site (<http://www.competenz.org.nz/assets/Downloads/Accreditation-and-Moderation-Fees.pdf>).

Competenz Fees Schedule Updated 2016		
Consent to Assess		
	Service	Fees
1.	For advising applicants preparing for consent to assess and/or moderation	\$75 per hour plus GST
2.	Administration fee	\$75 plus GST per application

3.	Evaluation of documentation	\$150 plus GST
4.	Evaluation of documentation and a consent to assess visit of up to one day	Consent to assess panellist \$400 per day plus GST
5.		\$200 per half day plus GST
6.	Advising a provider preparing for consent to assess	\$75 per hour plus “actual and reasonable” expenses
7.	Travel and accommodation	Reimbursement for “actual and reasonable” travel and accommodation expenses. Vehicle mileage as per the current IRD rate
		Charges are invoiced by Competenz directly to NZQA/ITPNZ as appropriate
Moderation		
1.	Moderation of documentation	\$75 per hour plus GST
2.	Moderation site visits	\$400 per day plus GST
3.	Additional time required for Moderation visit	\$200 per half day plus GST
4.	Travel and accommodation	Reimbursement for “actual and reasonable” travel and accommodation expenses. Vehicle mileage as per the current IRD rate

Non-compliance with moderation requirements

Non-compliance in meeting the requirements of this moderation system will result in further action by Competenz. Ongoing unresolved non-compliance will be referred to the appropriate QAB (NZQA or CUAP). Ultimately the QAB may withdraw consent to assess.

Where there are issues of non-compliance, Competenz in the first instance will try to resolve the matter directly with the organisation; this may include visits or additional moderation, which may incur charges. Where no action is taken by the organisation, they will be formally notified of non-compliance by letter, in which it will be clearly stated what they must do to achieve compliance and the timeframe by which it must be achieved. Where an organisation persists in non-compliance, a recommendation will be made to NZQA.

Those selected for a visit as a result of non-compliance will be advised by letter prior to the moderation visit occurring and a suitable date for the visit will be negotiated. The purpose of the visit is to verify assessment practices, assessor decisions, and learner evidence in relation to practical unit standards at Level 2 or above.

Appeals

If an organisation with consent to assess requires clarification of a moderation decision, an appeal may be made.

Organisations seeking to appeal a moderation decision should contact the Quality Assurance team at Competenz within three weeks of receiving the initial moderation decision. In the first instance, a Competenz Moderation Manager will review the decision and seek to resolve any issues. If the matter cannot be resolved it will be referred to the Quality Assurance Manager for a final decision.

DAS Registration Information

Process	Version	Date
Registration	1	January 1994
Review	2	May 1997
Review	3	October 2010
Review	4	April 2016

The next CMR review is planned to take place during 2020.