

CONSENT AND MODERATION REQUIREMENTS (CMR) for Primary Sector subfield

(version 3)

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

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Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Primary Sector

Domain	Standard IDs
Plant Pest, Weed, and Disease Control	21556, 21558, 21560, 21561, 21563, 21565, 27207, 27208, 27210, 27213, 27215-27217
Primary Sector Core Skills	4, 2803, 19136-19138, 19143, 19145, 22174, 28635, 29095, 29154, 29156, 31656, 31657, 31832, 31833, 32013

Engineering and Technology > Water Industry

Domain	Standard IDs
Field Hydrology	28800-28807

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".

Where applicable, Primary Industry Training Organisation (Primary ITO) encourages applicant organisations to seek consent to assess for domains rather than by individual unit standard. This approach is generally more cost effective because it

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

avoids repeated applications for extension of consent to assess at unit standard level.

Primary ITO welcomes inquiries from organisations seeking consent to assess. It is recommended that an applicant organisation seeking information on consent to assess requirements make contact with the Quality team.

Standard Setting Body involvement in process for granting consent to assess

Organisations wishing to deliver and assess against Primary ITO unit standards are required to contact the Quality team to evaluate their application for consent to assess. All applications to NZQA should include this evidence of support.

Before evidence of support is provided, Primary ITO reserves the right to carry out a site visit in accordance with the process requirements below. Primary ITO also reserves the right to visit organisations who are seeking consent to assess Primary ITO unit standards for the first time. This will involve charges as set out in the fees schedule – see below.

The purpose of a site visit is to confirm that the premises and resources meet the industry or sector-specific requirements for consent to assess. Once satisfied that all requirements are met, Primary ITO will provide evidence of support for that application.

Levels 1 and 2	Evaluation of documentation by NZQA and industry.
Levels 3 and above	Evaluation of documentation and visit by NZQA and industry.

Visit waiver conditions

Conditions under which Primary ITO may waive their involvement in consent to assess visit:

- where the applicant seeks consent to assess against a very small number of unit standards and Primary ITO decides that, given the particular nature of the unit standards, a visit is not warranted; or
- when in the opinion of Primary ITO the applicant has established a credible background and history of providing assessment against unit standards in the area applied for, and that the applicant's quality systems are known to Primary ITO; or
- when the consent to assess application has been developed in consultation with Primary ITO.

Areas of shared responsibility

Responsibility for the Primary ITO to participate in a consent to assess visit may be delegated to another ITO. This can occur when consent to assess is being sought for Primary ITO unit standards that are included in another ITO's qualification.

Fees for SSB involvement in process for granting consent to assess

The SSB may choose to charge reasonable fees for their involvement in granting consent to assess. Contact the SSB 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.

Industry or sector-specific requirements for consent to assess

Applicant organisations must meet the requirements as set out below.

Applicant organisations seeking to extend their existing consent to assess must be able to demonstrate that they are meeting the consent to assess and moderation requirements in the CMR for their existing scope of consent to assess.

Criterion 1 Development and evaluation of teaching programmes

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

- teaching programmes are relevant, structured and include embedded literacy and numeracy training to meet the identified literacy and numeracy demands of the relevant unit standards;
- industry input has been considered in the development and delivery of teaching programmes and resources, all of which must demonstrate a clear link with unit standards;
- trainee feedback is taken into account in evaluating programme quality.

Criterion 2 Financial, administrative and physical resources

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures in place to ensure that all equipment, training, and assessment resources conform to standards, codes of practice, and legislation relevant to the unit standards concerned.

The applicant organisation must also have policies and procedures to ensure that trainees have sufficient time and access to worksite resources and equipment to meet training and assessment requirements.

Criterion 3 Staff selection, appraisal and development

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures in place for the appointment of staff that ensure staff are appropriately qualified. At a minimum, staff must be qualified at a level higher than the unit standards they are assessing against or demonstrate equivalent and current knowledge and skills.

Demonstration of equivalent and current knowledge and skills may include but is not limited to:

- holding non-unit standard based qualifications in the same subject area;
- having current or previous employment in a role that requires skills and knowledge in the same subject matter.

It is recommended that staff appointed to assess against these unit standards have proven competence in assessment. This could be evidenced by holding credit for Unit 4098, *Use standards to assess candidate performance*, or an equivalent work-based assessment qualification.

It is also recommended that teaching staff hold, or are working towards, nationally recognised qualifications in adult education at Level 4 or above.

Criterion 6 Off-site practical or work-based components

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures in place for trainees who spend time within industry for training, work experience and/or assessment. These policies and procedures must include employment and placement agreements that describe the respective responsibilities of trainee, applicant organisation and industry.

At a minimum, employment or placement agreements must clearly indicate who is responsible for:

- management of health and safety;
- assessing trainees;
- reporting results;
- allowing sufficient time and access to worksite resources and equipment to meet training and assessment requirements.

The applicant organisation's policies and procedures must also clearly specify a process for conflict resolution between parties.

Criterion 8 Reporting

The applicant organisation must have a system in place to ensure trainee credit achievement is reported to NZQA within six months of the assessment date.

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

Primary ITO 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 the Primary ITO.

Introduction

The purpose of the Moderation Requirements (MR) is to provide details on the national external moderation system, developed by Primary ITO, 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 the MR.

Moderation System

Primary ITO wishes to work in partnership with organisations with consent to assess, and to provide support and feedback to ensure that assessment is consistent with the national standard.

Primary ITO recognises that moderation is an ongoing process and welcomes suggestions from organisations with consent to assess, on how the current national external moderation system can be modified or improved.

Responsibilities

The Quality team manages Primary ITO's moderation system. The Quality team will plan and co-ordinate all moderation events, report moderation outcomes, ensure organisations with consent to assess comply with moderation requirements, and evaluate and report on the effectiveness of Primary ITO's national external moderation system.

Primary ITO will appoint moderators. The criteria for selection will include relevant qualifications, preferably at degree level, relevant experience in applicable sectors, and extensive experience in adult teaching and assessment.

These moderators, the National Moderator, and the Quality team will meet at least annually to check moderate and peer review moderation activities. Annual feedback will be sought from each moderator on the effectiveness of moderation activities and suggestions for improvement to the system. This feedback will be considered in the planning process for the following year.

Primary ITO will invite industry representatives with specific expertise to advise and assist in moderation activities as required.

Planning

Each year, Primary ITO will contact organisations with consent to assess, and they will be required to submit an annual moderation report and assessment plan. This assessment plan component will include

- a list of unit standards to be assessed during the year;
- a brief description of how the standards are integrated within the programme and the assessment process to be used.

Primary ITO will ensure that moderation of assessment material and assessor decisions is carried out on a sample of unit standards determined from the above assessment plans. The sample will be representative of unit standards against which assessment is occurring and will include unit standards with high usage and/or safety issues. The list of unit standards will be published in the moderation newsletter sent out at the beginning of each year.

When selecting unit standards for moderation, Primary ITO may also consider the following criteria:

- unit standards that have previously been the subject of moderation concerns;
- recently registered, revised, or reviewed unit standards;
- unit standards not previously assessed;
- unit standards not previously moderated;
- a spread of domains and levels;
- other factors as determined by Primary ITO in consultation with organisations with consent to assess.

Post-assessment moderation

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

Primary ITO's national external moderation system consists of a number of moderation activities which may be employed to ensure assessment is meeting the national standard. Organisations with consent to assess against Primary ITO unit standards will be required to participate in one or more of these activities.

1 Cluster Workshops (Clusters)

Primary ITO requires organisations to participate in a cluster workshop to moderate a sample of their theory and practical assessment materials and decisions, with others who are involved in assessing against Primary ITO unit standards.

Primary ITO will publish the list of standards from which the cluster groups will select the standards they will moderate each year. Primary ITO will ensure a moderator is available to each cluster to provide advice and support and to record and report on moderation outcomes. Primary ITO expects organisations to take responsibility for convening clusters.

Feedback to Primary ITO has indicated that cluster participation is valuable to organisations as it provides opportunities to share ideas, seek feedback, network, and maintain currency with industry practice.

Horticulture

Organisations who are actively assessing against unit standards in any of the *Viticulture*, and/or *Floristry* domains above must meet moderation requirements by participating in the relevant cluster.

Organisations who are actively assessing against unit standards in the *Arboriculture* domain must meet moderation requirements by participating in the Arboriculture

cluster. An exception is made for unit standards 2765, 2766, 2772, 25399, 25401 and 25404, which will be moderated at either the Arboriculture cluster or Horticulture cluster. This requirement is in addition to participating in clusters to meet moderation requirements for all other domains in the *Horticulture* subfield.

2 Moderation Panel

To facilitate national consistency, the Quality team will request samples of assessment material and student scripts from organisations for selected unit standards annually. A panel of moderators will be convened to moderate assessment material and student scripts. A plan of the unit standards to be sampled will be published at the start of each year in the Moderation Newsletter sent to all organisations with consent to assess.

Organisations with consent to assess for multiple sites must provide samples from each site.

Where available, the student scripts supplied should be those with borderline assessment decisions where credit was awarded and where credit was not awarded.

The Quality team will report on the outcomes of moderation for the relevant organisation. Assessment material that does not meet the national standard will be required to be resubmitted by a specified date for approval before it can be used again.

3 Site visits

Each year Primary ITO undertakes to visit and interview a sample of organisations. Those selected for a visit will be advised of the visit at the beginning of the year by letter. An individual moderator or a team of moderators will conduct the visit depending on the amount of assessment being undertaken and the nature of the unit standards being assessed against.

The intention of the visit is to ensure that moderation outcomes from clusters and moderation panels are actioned, and to facilitate the organisation's engagement in Primary ITO's national external moderation system. The visit is intended to sample assessment practices and assessor decisions in relation to practical unit standards, to provide support and guidance for training delivery and assessment against Primary ITO unit standards, and to foster partnership between the ITO and the organisation.

Feedback will be provided by a report, and any actions to bring about compliance with moderation requirements will be identified.

4 Annual moderation report and assessment plan

All organisations that have actively assessed against Primary ITO unit standards in the previous year are required to submit an annual moderation report and assessment plan to the Quality team. The Quality team can provide a report template.

The annual moderation report summarises the organisation's engagement with Primary ITO's national external moderation system. It may include participation at clusters, submission of scripts to the moderation panel, on-site visits, and evaluating actions taken by the organisation to bring their assessment material and assessor decisions into line with the national standard.

The assessment plan outlines a list of Primary ITO unit standards and/or domains the organisation intends to assess, and how the unit standards are integrated within the programmes and the assessment process to be used. The assessment plan also allows organisations to provide current and accurate contact details.

5 Postal Moderation for organisations with consent to assess

At times, organisations who have reported results may be requested to submit assessment materials and student samples for postal moderation. This moderation activity may be employed when the other moderation activities are not suitable for the selected unit standard(s), or unable to be accommodated by the organisation. The request will be made in a manner that ensures the organisation is given sufficient and reasonable notice to respond. A report will be provided to the applicable organisation once postal moderation is completed.

Pre-assessment moderation

Primary ITO has developed assessment materials for some unit standards. These have been moderated and are available free of charge to organisations with consent to assess those standards. Primary ITO encourages organisations with consent to assess to use these assessment materials to ensure consistency of assessment decisions. These assessment materials are available from Primary ITO by request.

The applicant organisation must have policies and procedures to ensure that assessment material that has met external moderation requirements is used in preference to assessment material that has not yet met those requirements.

Primary ITO recognises the academic autonomy of organisations with consent to assess to develop their own assessment materials. Self-developed assessment material must undergo internal pre-assessment moderation by the organisation prior to submission to Primary ITO. Organisations must then submit such assessment material to the Quality team for pre-assessment moderation and approval prior to use. This is to ensure that the material will enable assessment decisions that are consistent with the national standard.

Primary ITO reserves the right to charge a pre-assessment moderation fee of \$120 plus GST per hour.

Confidentiality and intellectual property

Organisations with consent to assess and the Quality team will ensure confidentiality and security of all assessment and moderation materials submitted to them.

Organisations with consent to assess and the Quality team may not use the materials

for any purpose other than for moderation, unless they have obtained written permission from the author or author organisation.

Reporting

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

Primary ITO will use a range of methodologies to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of its national external moderation system, including satisfaction surveys for industry, students, and organisations with consent to assess; informal feedback; review by moderators, and formal review. Improvements will be made on the basis of this evaluation. An annual report will be provided to NZQA.

Funding

The moderation system is funded through the National Moderation Transfer from NZQA and industry contributions.

Moderation activities will be funded from the rebate portion of the NZQA \$1 per credit fee, and government trainee funding, and industry contributions. No charges will be applied to organisations. However, they will be required to fund their own participation in the external moderation activities.

Fees schedule	
Pre-assessment moderation	\$120 plus GST per hour
Consent to assess visit	
Administration fee (per application)	\$75 plus GST
Evaluation of documentation	\$120 plus GST
Evaluation of documentation and consent to assess visit (based on one day)	\$400 plus GST (per panellist)
Mileage (per km)	\$0.77
Travel and accommodation expenditures	Actual and reasonable costs

Non-compliance with moderation requirements

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

Where an organisation with consent to assess does not meet moderation requirements, the Quality team will request to obtain further material and/or information from the organisation.

The Quality team can, on request from an organisation with consent to assess, provide clarification on any issue of non-compliance. This may involve the moderator visiting the organisation or meeting their representative on Primary ITO premises (see Fees schedule above).

Primary ITO will outline, in cooperation with the organisation with consent to assess, an action plan in cases where moderation uncovers inappropriate assessment methods and/or materials. The action plan will specify the actions to be taken for the organisation to become compliant and the timeframe by which this must be achieved.

Where an organisation with consent to assess fails to achieve compliance within the specified timeframe, Primary ITO will advise the appropriate QAB and forward documented evidence of non-compliance.

Appeals

Primary ITO has established written procedures for resolving disputes regarding moderation outcomes, which are available to all moderators and organisations with consent to assess.

Participants in cluster workshops should make every effort to resolve disagreements concerning moderation decisions and/or recommendations at the time of the workshop.

Formal appeals should be submitted in writing and addressed to the Quality team. If they cannot be resolved at this level, information on moderation issues should be addressed to the Quality Manager. The decision of the Quality Manager is final and binding on all parties.

Primary ITO has also developed and implemented a Code of Client Rights Policy, which has been approved by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). The policy contains a set of expectations that staff of the Primary ITO will meet in all their dealings with clients. In addition, it provides a vehicle for all clients of Primary ITO to lodge a complaint to the ITO about the services or standards of service that have been provided, or not provided, as the case may be.

The Code of Client Rights Policy is available from the Primary ITO website at www.primaryito.ac.nz.

DAS Registration Information

Process	Version	Date
Registration	1	April 2011
Revision	2	September 2013
Review	3	November 2015

The next CMR review is planned to take place during 2019.

Unit standards covered by this CMR will be moved to CMR 0052 when they are next reviewed – see table below.

Replaced CMRs	Replacement CMRs	Date
0232 v3	0052 v6	November 2015