

FIELD ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY**Review of *Engineering and Technology* qualifications**

National Certificate in Engineering (General Engineering - Mechanical) (Level 2)
[Ref: 0903]

National Certificate in Gunsmithing (Level 4) [Ref: 0346]

Competenz has completed the review of the above qualifications.

Date report published

February 2008

Summary of review and consultation process

In the period 2004 to 2006 a major review of the qualifications for the mechanical engineering trades was undertaken.

Part of this review identified the fundamental skills and knowledge underlying mechanical engineering and fabrication trades in general, and this led to the registration of the National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Level 2) [Ref: 1220]. This qualification is now widely used as a pre-trade qualification and in the first year of apprenticeships leading to the National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Level 4) with strands in Fitting and Machining, General Engineering, Machining, Maintenance Engineering, and Toolmaking [Ref: 1262].

In conjunction with the major review of the qualifications, a review of the requirements of the gunsmithing industry took place. The uptake of the National Certificate in Gunsmithing (Level 4) since its first registration in 1997 has been very low, and there are currently only five apprentices. Under the circumstances, the industry decided that their interests would be better served by the new National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Level 4) with strands in Fitting and Machining, General Engineering, Machining, Maintenance Engineering, and Toolmaking [Ref: 1262] provided standards from the Gunsmithing domain are available in the elective sections. This has since been implemented.

Main changes resulting from the review

The National Certificate in Engineering (General Engineering - Mechanical) (Level 2) [Ref: 0903] and the National Certificate in Gunsmithing (Level 4) [Ref: 0346] are no longer required. Both of these qualifications will expire and not be replaced.

National Certificate in Engineering (General Engineering - Mechanical) (Level 2)
[Ref: 0903]

Review category	D	See Key to Qualification Review Categories at the end of report
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Transition

No new trainees have been signed into this programme during 2007.

All existing trainees have until 2010 to complete the qualification. Expiry dates of some standards in the qualification were extended earlier this year to permit assessments to take place until then.

Alternatively, trainees may transfer their credits to any of the following qualifications:

- National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Level 2) [Ref: 1220]; or
- National Certificate in Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering (Level 1) [Ref: 0126];
or
- National Certificate in Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering (Level 2) [Ref: 0127].

The 12 trainees still enrolled in this programme with Competenz will be individually advised.

Last date for award of the National Certificate in Engineering (General Engineering - Mechanical) (Level 2) [Ref: 0903] is 31 December 2010.

It is not intended that anyone be disadvantaged by this review. The above arrangements have been designed for a smooth phasing out of this qualification. However, anyone who feels they have been disadvantaged may appeal to Competenz at the address below.

National Certificate in Gunsmithing (Level 4) [Ref: 0346]

Review category	D	See Key to Qualification Review Categories at the end of report
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This qualification contains standards that replace an earlier standard. For the purposes of this qualification, people who have gained credit for the following expiring standard are exempt from the requirement to gain credit for the replacement standards – see table below.

Credit for	Exempt from
2700	11661, 11662, 11663, 11664

Transition

No new trainees were signed into this programme during 2006 or 2007. People interested in an apprenticeship in gunsmithing should enrol in a programme leading to the National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Level 4) with strands in Fitting and Machining, General Engineering, Machining, Maintenance Engineering, and Toolmaking [Ref: 1262] and choose elective standards from the Gunsmithing domain.

All existing trainees have until 2012 to complete the qualification. Expiry dates of some standards in the qualification were extended earlier this year to permit assessments to take place until then.

Alternatively, trainees may transfer their credits to either of the following qualifications:

- National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Level 2) [Ref: 1220]; or
- National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering (Level 4) with strands in Fitting and Machining, General Engineering, Machining, Maintenance Engineering, and Toolmaking [Ref: 1262].

The 5 trainees still enrolled in this programme with Competenz will be individually advised.

Last date for award of the National Certificate in Gunsmithing (Level 4) [Ref: 0346] is 31 December 2012.

It is not intended that anyone be disadvantaged by this review. The above arrangements have been designed for a smooth phasing out of this qualification. However, anyone who feels they have been disadvantaged may appeal to Competenz at the address below.

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Key to Qualification Review Categories

Category A The qualification is published as a new version with the same NQF ID	Changes are made to SSB name, contact details or purpose statement
	No change is made to title, rules or components of the qualification
	No transition arrangements are required
Category B The qualification is published as a new version with the same NQF ID	Changes are made to title, rules or components
	The new version of the qualification recognises a similar skill set to that recognised by the previous version
	The SSB is confident that people awarded the new or previous version are comparable in terms of competence
	Transition arrangements are required if candidates must gain additional/different credits for the new version
Category C A new (replacement) qualification is published with new NQF ID	Significant changes are made to the qualification in terms of components, structure, type or level
	The SSB views people with the replacement qualification as being significantly different in terms of competence from those with the replaced qualification
	Transition arrangements are required
	Transition may be limited to phase-out dates
Category D Qualification will expire. There is no replacement qualification	Qualification is no longer required by industry
	The qualification is designated as expiring and a last date for meeting the qualification requirements is set