

**FIELD                    AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES****Review of *Agriculture* qualification****National Certificate in Farming Skills (General Skills) [Ref: 1468]**

The Agriculture Industry Training Organisation has completed the review of the qualification above.

**Date new version published****March 2010**

The next qualification review is planned to take place during 2015.

**Summary of review and consultation process**

Feedback initiated the review of qualifications for trainees new to the agriculture sector. There have been low enrolments and subsequent completions for new trainees in Level 2 agriculture qualifications. The review identified that while the intended outcomes of the qualifications met industry needs, the detailed structure did not deliver on the requirements for those undertaking vocational study, which proved that the qualifications were not fit for purpose and in some cases needed additional resourcing.

An internal working group was formed in August 2009, to confirm the outcomes required for training at levels 2 and 3; to scope a qualification structure, and to work through assessment and course delivery options. External consultation was carried out with employers, training providers and industry stakeholders to ensure the training packages were fit for purpose.

The recommendation of the working group was to review the National Certificate in Farming Skills (General Skills) [Ref: 1468], as the purpose of the qualification was the closest fit to the outcomes required for all trainees new to farming.

Further work on the remaining Agriculture qualifications at Level 2 and 3 will be carried out during 2010.

**Main changes resulting from the review**

The structure of the National Certificate in Farming Skills (General Skills) [Ref: 1468] has been updated into a small compulsory section and one large elective where previously there were three elective sections. Additional standards have been included in the elective as a result of feedback from the working group and training providers. The large elective enables flexibility in delivery and will continue to suit providers offering the replaced version of the qualification as well as those looking to offer the new version.

National Certificate in Farming Skills (General Skills) [Ref: 1468]

**National Certificate in Agriculture (General Skills) [Ref: 1468]**

Review category	<b>B</b>	See <a href="#">Key to Qualification Review Categories</a> at the end of report
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### Changes to structure and content

- The title was changed from Farming Skills to Agriculture to better reflect the broad range of agriculture skills in the qualification
- Standards 6400, 6401, 6402, 6917, 19145 and 23541 were moved from the compulsory section to the elective section
- Electives 1, 2 and 3 were merged into a single elective section
- Standards 561, 664, 6916, 17257, 17676, 17976, 17978, 19112, 19054, 19055, 21218, 21219, 21556, 23543, 24536, 24537, 24553, 24556, 24558, 24560, 24561, 24562, 24563, 24630, 24832, 24833, 24834 and 24835 were added to the elective section
- Standard 19106 was removed and 19112 was added to the elective section
- Total credits decreased from 49 to 40.

### Transition

People currently working towards version 1 of this qualification may either complete the requirements of that version by 31 December 2012 or transfer to this version of the qualification.

Training programmes or courses for version 2 of this qualification may start as soon as the qualification is registered.

This qualification contains standards that replaced earlier standards. For the purposes of this qualification, people who have gained credit for the expired or expiring standards are exempt from the requirement to gain credit for the replacement standards – see table below.

Credit for	Exempt from
11852, 18425, 14489, 14490, 14491	23540, 23541, 23542, 23543
19043, 19049	24552
19056	24553, 24554
19057	24555, 24556, 24557
19058	24558, 24559

It is not intended that anyone is disadvantaged by this review. However, anyone who feels they have been disadvantaged may appeal to the Agriculture Industry Training Organisation at the address below.

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 Wellington 6143

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## Key to Qualification Review Categories

<b>Category A</b> 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
<b>Category B</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
<b>Category C</b> 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
<b>Category D</b> 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