

## FIELD SCIENCES

### Review of *Science* qualifications

**National Diploma in Science (Technician) (Level 5) with optional strands in Laboratory Practice and Technology, Chemistry, Microbiology, and Applied [Ref: 0234]**

**National Diploma in Science (Advanced Technician) (Level 6) with optional strands in Laboratory Practice and Technology, Chemistry, Microbiology, and Applied [Ref: 0235]**

**National Certificate in Science (Level 4) [Ref: 1669]**

**National Certificate in Science (Level 5) [Ref: 1670]**

NZQA National Qualifications Services has completed the review of the qualifications listed above.

### Replacement and New qualifications

**New Zealand Certificate in Applied Science (Level 3) [Ref: 2550]**

**New Zealand Certificate in Applied Science (Level 4) [Ref: 2551]**

**New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science (Level 5) [Ref: 2552]**

**New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science (Level 6) [Ref: 2553]**

**New Zealand Certificate in Laboratory Systems Management (Level 6) [Ref: 2554]**

**Date new versions published**

**January 2015**

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

### Summary of review and consultation process

Qualifications in science levels 1-6 were scheduled for review in 2013 as part of the nationwide mandatory review of qualifications. The review aimed to ensure qualifications meet the science sector's needs and are aligned with the new rules for listing qualifications on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework.

Science graduates at all levels are required by manufacturing and regulatory industries for field work, research and development. The high commitment to grow New Zealand's research base and scientific skills is expected to fuel continued growth in demand for people with vocational qualifications at level 4 and above. The practical skills and technical knowledge of those qualified at pre-degree level are useful and necessary to scientific workplaces, although most scientific workers are qualified at level 7 and above.

Five replacement and new qualifications are proposed, as listed above.

The level 6 certificate is a pathway for experienced technicians who are identified as potential managers. At present there are no New Zealand qualifications to prepare people to maintain quality systems in laboratories.

### Main changes resulting from the review

- Both the new certificate at level 3 and the replacement certificate at level 4 have broad application to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

- The replacement diplomas at level 5 and level 6 do not have technician in the title and can be applied to a range of job roles.
- There are no strands or endorsements.
- Assessment is not necessarily based on unit standards.
- The National Certificate in Science (Level 5) has no replacement.

National Diploma in Science (Technician) (Level 5) with optional strands in Laboratory Practice and Technology, Chemistry, Microbiology, and Applied [Ref: 0234]

*replaced by*

**New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science (Level 5) [Ref: 2552]**

Review category	<b>C</b>	See <a href="#">Key to Qualification Review Categories</a> at the end of report
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National Diploma in Science (Advanced Technician) (Level 6) with optional strands in Laboratory Practice and Technology, Chemistry, Microbiology, and Applied [Ref: 0235]

*replaced by*

**New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science (Level 6) [Ref: 2553]**

Review category	<b>C</b>	See <a href="#">Key to Qualification Review Categories</a> at the end of report
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National Certificate in Science (Level 4) [Ref: 1669]

*replaced by*

**New Zealand Certificate in Applied Science (Level 4) [Ref: 2551]**

Review category	<b>C</b>	See <a href="#">Key to Qualification Review Categories</a> at the end of report
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National Certificate in Science (Level 5) [Ref: 1670]

Review category	<b>D</b>	See <a href="#">Key to Qualification Review Categories</a> at the end of report
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## Transition

Programmes leading to the New Zealand qualifications may differ significantly in terms of skill set and competence from programmes leading to the replaced qualifications.

People currently working towards the replaced qualifications [Ref: 0234, 0235, 1669] may either complete the requirements for that qualification by 31 December 2018 or transfer to the new qualification. The last date for entry into programmes leading to the replaced qualifications is 31 December 2016.

People currently working towards the National Certificate in Science (Level 5) [Ref: 1670] may either complete the requirements for that qualification by 31 December 2018 or transfer to the New Zealand Diploma in Applied Science (Level 5). The last date for entry into programmes leading to Ref: 1670 is 31 December 2016.

## 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