

Field Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Review of *Agrichemical Supply*, *Plant Pest, Weed, and Disease Control*, and *Agrichemical Application* unit standards

Subfield	Domain	ID
Agriculture	Agrichemical Supply	21544
Primary Sector	Plant Pest, Weed, and Disease Control	21556, 21558, 21560, 21561, 21563, 21565, 27208, 27210, 27215, 27216, 29827
Rural Contracting	Agrichemical Application	6239, 6240, 6245, 17232, 23617, 23619, 23620, 31940

The Food and Fibre Industry Skills Board has completed the review of the unit standards listed above.

Date new versions published

June 2026

Planned review date

December 2031

Summary

The review of existing agrichemical standards across the *Agrichemical Application* and *Agrichemical Supply* domains (Levels 2-4) was initiated in conjunction with the review of the New Zealand Certificate in Agrichemical Application (Level 4) [Ref: 3984] and the New Zealand Certificate in Agrichemical Supply (Level 4) [Ref: 2497].

The review was guided by a Consultation Advisory Group (CAG) comprising 10 members, including industry experts from organisations such as Growsafe and Rural Contractors NZ (RCNZ), the major provider Connexis, Primary ITO, and regional council representatives.

The review confirmed that the scope covered multiple contexts, including standards that were associated with the New Zealand Certificate in Agrichemical Supply (Level 4) [Ref: 2497] (since expired August 2025) and standards that were part of the Limited Credit Programme (LCP) in Vineyard Operations offered by Primary ITO.

As well as reviewing the unit standards for currency, clarity and consistency, a primary focus was ensuring the qualification and unit standards were aligned with the NZ standard, NZS 8409:2021 (Management of agrichemicals), which superseded NZS 8409:2004.

The review also aimed to implement an update across the suite by shifting specific compliance references from Titles, Outcomes and Performance Criteria (PCs) to Guidance Information to better emphasise applied knowledge and core industry skills for assessment.

Main changes

- Unit standard 21544 was reclassified from *Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Agriculture > Agrichemical Supply* to *Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Rural Contracting > Agrichemical Application*. Outcome 3 was amended from 'control' to 'explain'.
- Title of unit standard 21556 was amended to remove redundant implicit use of 'supervision' and replace with 'or a specified primary sector' to better reflect outcomes and PC.
- Titles and outcomes for core knowledge unit standards 21563 and 21565 were revised to include the concept of 'effective' use (i.e., 'safe, responsible, and effective use' of agrichemicals) in keeping with NZS 8409:2021 requirements.
- Titles of unit standards 27215 and 27216 were amended to better reflect the learning outcomes and PC which includes prepare and apply agrichemicals.

- Title of unit standard 29827 was amended to include 'safety procedures' to be more accurate and better align with Outcome 2.
- A new mandatory performance criterion (PC 1.1) regarding the establishment of necessary regulatory permissions and controls was added to unit standards 6239, 6240, 23617, 23619, 23620 and 31940.
- Title of unit standard 23617 was amended to apply to 'brush and pest weeds' rather than just 'brush weeds'.
- Title of unit standard 23619 was amended to include 'identify and describe' in order to reflect outcomes more accurately.

The last date for assessment of superseded versions of Category B unit standards is December 2027

Impact on existing organisations with consent to assess

Current consent for			Consent extended to		
Nature of consent	Classification or ID	Level	Nature of consent	Classification or ID	Level
Subfield	Agriculture	4	Standard	21544	4
Domain	Agrichemical Supply	4	Standard	21544	4

Impact on Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR)

All unit standards moved to CMR 0052.

Detailed list of unit standards – classification, title, level, and credits

All changes are in **bold**.

Key to review category	
A	Dates changed, but no other changes are made - the new version of the standard carries the same ID and a new version number
B	Changes made, but the overall outcome remains the same - the new version of the standard carries the same ID and a new version number
C	Major changes that necessitate the registration of a replacement standard with a new ID
D	Standard will expire and not be replaced

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Primary Sector > Plant Pest, Weed, and Disease Control

ID	Title	Level	Credit	Review Category
21556	Control weeds under supervision Control weeds for a specified primary sector	2	2	B
21558	Describe calibration, and calibrate motorised agrichemical application equipment	4	5	B
21560	Explain agrichemical use for primary sector applications	3	6	B
21561	Use, maintain, and store agrichemical personal protective equipment	2	2	B
21563	Describe hazard classification systems, and the safe and responsible use of agrichemicals Describe hazard classification systems, agrichemical risks, and their safe, responsible, and effective use	3	8	B
21565	Describe and manage agrichemicals in accordance with NZS 8409:2021 Manage the safe, responsible, and effective use of agrichemicals	4	10	B

ID	Title	Level	Credit	Review Category
27208	Identify and describe plant pests, diseases, and disorders, and methods of prevention and control	3	8	B
27210	Identify and describe weeds, and methods of prevention and control	3	6	B
27215	Prepare to apply and apply agrichemicals using hand held equipment Prepare to apply, and apply, agrichemicals using hand-held equipment	2	5	B
27216	Prepare to apply and apply agrichemicals using motorised equipment Prepare to apply, and apply, agrichemicals using motorised agrichemical application equipment	3	8	B
29827	Demonstrate knowledge of agrichemicals, and safety when using agrichemicals Demonstrate knowledge of agrichemicals, and safety procedures when using agrichemicals	3	5	B

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Rural Contracting > Agrichemical Application

ID	Title	Level	Credit	Review Category
6239	Prepare to apply, and apply, agrichemicals for total vegetation control	4	12	B
6240	Prepare to apply, and apply, agrichemicals to control aquatic weeds	4	20	B
6245	Transport agrichemical concentrates by road and develop an emergency procedure guide	4	10	B
17232	Determine application rates for agrichemicals	3	4	B
23617	Prepare to apply, and apply, agrichemicals to control brush weeds Prepare to apply, and apply, agrichemicals to control brush and pest weeds	4	12	B
23619	Describe pests in crops and pasture and agrichemicals for their control Identify and describe pests in crops and pasture, and agrichemicals for their control	4	8	B
23620	Prepare to apply, and apply, agrichemicals to control pests in crops or pasture	4	20	B
31940	Prepare to apply, and apply, agrichemicals to control pests in tree and vine crops	4	20	B

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > Agriculture > Agrichemical Supply

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries > **Rural Contracting > Agrichemical Application**

ID	Title	Level	Credit	Review Category
21544	Demonstrate knowledge of the environmental aspects of agrichemical use	4	8	B