

# ASSESSOR PRACTICE GUIDELINES

VERSION 1 | NOVEMBER 2024

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# **GLOSSARY**

Term Description:	
Ākonga	Student, learner, pupil, apprentice, trainee.
Assessment resource	Also known as 'assessment', 'resource', 'assessment tool'. The learner-centric assessment resource, focussed on the assessment activity.
Assessor Guidance	Also known as 'assessor guidelines' or 'marking guides'. The supporting resource for assessors, that provides guidance, including judgement statements.
Assessment Schedule	The resource that maps where the requirements of the standard are covered in the assessment resource. May be included as part of the Assessor Guidance.
Formative Assessment	An assessment that is used to inform the teaching and learning process – to find out what the ākonga has achieved, and what the ākonga needs to best facilitate further progress.
Internal Moderation	An internal process confirming an organisation's assessment activities are fair, valid and consistent across all assessors and throughout all sites.
Kaiako	Teacher, instructor, tutor, trainer
LLN	'Literacy, Language, Numeracy'. In the context of this guidance document, 'LLN' refers to ākonga who have lower literacy and/or numeracy skills.
Pre-moderation	Involves reviewing and validating assessment tools and to ensure they are fair, accurate and aligned with the learning outcomes and performance criteria.
Professional conversation	A professional conversation is a structured and focused discussion between the ākonga and assessor to assess the ākonga knowledge and skills. This method allows for in-depth exploration of ākonga practical experiences, enabling assessors to gather evidence of performance. Professional conversations should be supported with evidence of practical competency.
Standard	Refers to unit standards, and skill standards.
Sufficiency	This refers to having enough evidence to establish with confidence that all criteria have been met and that performance to the required standard could be repeated with consistency.

# Summative Assessment An assessment typically made at the end of a training period or course, to evaluate ākonga achievement at a particular time. Summative assessments can however be used formatively, if it

provides feedback to the ākonga. See also Formative Assessment.

#### Triangulation of evidence

The process of using multiple methods to gather evidence to verify ākonga competence. For example, an assessor might combine direct observation with work samples, verifier feedback, written work, practical demonstration &/or professional conversations.

These methods ensure that the assessment is not reliant on a single piece of evidence.

# Verifier

A verifier is someone who supports the assessment process. A verifier does not make assessment decisions. The role of the verifier is to:

Verify that evidence provided by the ākonga is valid and authentic.

Confirm that the ākonga practice is in accordance with contextual and organisational requirements.

Based on their observations, verify the performance of the ākonga completing practical tasks.

# 1. PURPOSE

This document aims to provide guidelines for assessors using assessment standards, to clarify the assessment process and improve assessor practice. It provides guidance on:

- (a) assessors meeting Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR),
- (b) using fit-for-purpose assessment resources, and
- (c) making consistent assessment judgements.

These guidelines work in tandem with the messages from the Assessor Practice Webinars, where the context is primarily to assess learnings from on-campus/off-job training courses.

Watch a recording of the Assessor Practice webinar that this guideline is based on.

#### 2. INTRODUCTION

The term, 'assessment' comes from the Latin verb, 'assidere', which means, "to sit with". This word origin suggests that assessment occurs alongside ākonga (the learner), rather than to ākonga. This resonates with the concept of 'ako', the reciprocal relationship between the 'kaiako' and 'ākonga'.

One way of thinking about assessment is, "the process of gathering evidence of a ākonga strengths and weaknesses, to measure the ākonga competency against learning outcomes".

# 3. KEY QUALITIES OF EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT

Effective assessment is fair, valid, and consistent.

**Fairness** ensures that ākonga are not disadvantaged for any reason. The assessment process should be clearly understood by ākonga and mutually agreed on. Ākonga needs should be addressed.

Validity confirms assessment measures what is intended to be measured.

**Consistency** focuses on the ākonga performance being repeatable, ensuring other assessors would make similar decisions, which pre-supposes the sufficiency of the evidence.

**Triangulation of evidence** is the key to evidence being sufficient. Triangulation of evidence refers to gathering evidence from a variety of relevant sources to inform assessment judgements.

Sources of evidence could include:

- Written or verbal assessment
- Assessor observations
- Workplace verifications

- Site visit records
- Ākonga record of work (written or electronic)
- Workplace documentation (e.g. H&S records, plans and specifications, legislation and standards, logbooks, equipment checklists)
- Ākonga self-reflections
- Professional conversations
- Photographic and/or video evidence and/or audio

A diverse and reliable evidence-base should support all assessments.

Assessment tools and approaches: NZQA

# 3.1 THE ASSESSOR

The generic requirements for assessors according to the Consent and Moderation Requirements include the following:

The assessor must:

▶ Hold unit standard 4098, Use standards to assess performance or have equivalent knowledge and skills.

and meet any other requirements in the relevant CMR(s). These may include but are not limited to:

- ▶ Hold the standard(s) or qualification they are assessing against
- Have industry experience
- Engage in professional development
- ▶ Meet the additional requirements of a regulatory board around supervision or being an authorised person
- ▶ Be able to demonstrate knowledge of and apply safe working practices.

Assessors should have a safe support system that includes:

- ▶ A well-developed assessor guide.
- Support within the workplace or through the wider network of assessors or providers, e.g. internal peer moderation, associations, cluster moderation groups.

Assessment environment and context:

# Programme level assessments

The assessment process should be holistic and integrated from the start. This approach allows for ongoing collection of evidence, including formative assessments, and naturally occurring evidence, which contribute to the final assessment outcome. The process should be continuous and reflective of ākonga progress over time.

#### Short courses and high-risk standards

Training and assessment should be separated. For short courses that involve high risk activities, it is essential to separate training from assessment. This ensures that the assessment is conducted independently of the training, reducing any conflict of interest, and ensuring that safety and competency standards are upheld. The separation is critical to maintaining the credibility and validity of the assessment process.

#### Workplace verifiers

Verification, where evidence is documented and signed by the verifier, the assessor or both, is particularly valid where the assessment and gathering of evidence is based on demonstration of practical competence or is naturally occurring over a period of time. Verifiers must have current industry experience and regularly observe ākonga in the workplace. Their role is to confirm that ākonga meet industry standards by observing their performance and gathering evidence to ensure industry standard requirements are met.

A verifier is someone who supports the assessment process. A verifier does not make assessment decisions. The role of the verifier is to:

- Verify that evidence provided by the apprentice is valid and authentic
- Confirm that the apprentice's practice is in accordance with contextual requirements
- Based on their observations, verify the performance of the apprentice completing practical tasks.

#### Workplace assessors

Workplace assessors make assessment decisions based on a collection of evidence. This includes naturally occurring evidence in the workplace, workplace documentation and verification.

Assessors ensure assessments are fair, valid and meet national and/or industry standards. Assessors must be confident that ākonga can apply the required skills and knowledge outlined in the standard to the level, scope and complexity required to support the achievement of related standards. The assessor needs to be confident that ākonga would be able to repeat the assessed task again without further instruction or supervision.

# 3.2 ASSESSMENT MATERIALS ARE FIT FOR PURPOSE

The assessment resource and assessor guidelines should:

Meet all the standard requirements. For unit standards, this includes requirements stated within the explanatory notes and performance criteria, including range statements. For skill standards, this includes the assessment criteria and information within the assessment specifications.

#### Examples:

#### Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of hazards, hazard control, and lift planning.

#### Performance criteria

1.1 Describe site-specific hazards, potential hazards, and risks.

#### Range

may include but is not limited to – vehicles; equipment; ground condition; underground services; power sources; overhead service lines; trees, buildings, and structures; unauthorised people; adverse weather conditions; simultaneous operations; risks to the environment; pinch points;

evidence is required for at least seven different items.

The standard requires ākonga to describe site-specific hazards, potential hazards and risks.

Would naming provide enough evidence of this requirement?

Explaining what was needed to control them is not required as per the standard; however, in line with good practice, it has been included.

#### Question 1

Think of a site where a crane is operating (it may be one you have worked on). In the table below name **seven** hazards, potential hazards and risks related to the **site** (not the crane or the load). Briefly explain what was needed to control them. (30072 1.1)

Hazards, potential hazards or risks	Control
For example: underground services	Calling in experts to locate underground wires, pipes etc.
For example: ground condition, power sources, overhead service lines, unauthorised people, slips, trips and falls.  Other hazards could be: trees, buildings, other structures, adverse weather conditions, pinch points, simultaneous operations, vehicles, equipment.	For example:  PPE, securing the area, securing the load, advising supervisor, erecting barriers, pipes etc., calling off operations due to weather or unforeseen obstructions, clearing the area of unwanted obstructions, communicating with other parties on a site.  Refer to the Crane Safety Manual, Section 4 – Hazards.

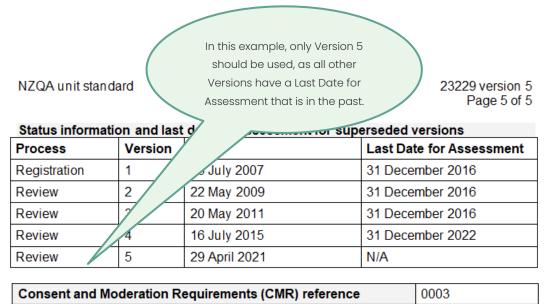
#### Assessor Judgement:

Trainees may name other hazards not specifically covered in the Crane Safety Manual. Assessor judgement is required for the validity of the hazards and their control.

Trainees must name seven hazards, potential hazards or risks and their controls. However, this may be more or less depending on the complexity of the hazards and their control they use.

▶ Be a current version. Resources should be based on the latest version of a standard, though a current version is acceptable and can be assessed up to the expiry date.

Unit standard information should be checked as part of the internal moderation process.



This CMR can be accessed at http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do.

- ▶ Be appropriate to the provider's context. Assessment resources should be designed with the ākonga in mind. Including:
  - English as a second language (ESOL)
  - Low literacy and numeracy
  - The assessment context: on-job or off-job setting
  - The assessment environment: workplace, simulated environment or an isolated task.
  - Prior knowledge and experience.
- Provide assessors with sufficient guidance. Assessor guidance resources or marking guides should include clear and measurable sample answers and assessor judgement statements. They should include specific statements to guide assessors in evaluating responses. These should clarify how to determine the answer meets, exceeds or falls short of the expected standards.

# Examples:

This structure ensures clarity and consistency for assessors while maintaining flexibility for ākonga.

**Question 1:** Identify two key workplace hazards and explain the control measures. **Sample Answer:** 

- Hazard 1: *Slips and Trips* Slips, trips, and falls are common in workplaces due to wet floors, poor lighting, or uneven surfaces. Employers must ensure regular maintenance to prevent such hazards.
- Hazard 2: Chemical Exposure Exposure to harmful chemicals can cause health issues. Proper storage, handling procedures, and personal protective equipment (PPE) are essential.

**Judgement Statement:** Full marks: The learner identifies two appropriate hazards and provides a detailed explanation of how each hazard can be managed.

**Acceptable Responses:** Examples of other valid hazards: manual handling risks, electrical hazards, fire hazards, etc.

Task	Details	Achieved (√)	
Follows lift plan in relation to the people involved and people in the area of operations (1.3)			
Inspect and evaluate lifting gear May include but not limited to – slings, shackles, eye bolts; natural, synthetic	Evidence for three required over the two observations:		
and wire ropes; chains and web slings			Ī

This assessor guide lacks sufficient assessor guidance: it has no sample answers. While it states, "evidence of three items required over the two observations", it has no checkboxes to help the assessor with their marking

Job task activity sc	affolding		Location	Add location	Date	05/05/2023
Type of height work	Erect and dismantle scaffold	ing				
Documentation requ	ired:					
⋈ Hazard ID sheet	□Safety data sheet	□ Traffic manageme	nt plan 🗆	WorkSafe NZ notifiable work □ Oth	hers:	
Resources/ Equipment: (List resource/equipment required for the task.)						
Scaffolding equipme	nt					
PPE: (List PPE required f	or the task.)					
Harness, hardhat, sa	fety boots, hi visibility clothing					
				This generator quide includes		

This assessor guide includes sample answers, checkboxes, and assessor commentary, providing more robust guidance for assessors.

► Have a provision to document pre-assessment information, performance-based feedback and resits.

Pre-Assessment Confirmation (trainee to complete)

#### Please complete the following, before starting the assessment. Tick to Pre-assessment statement confirm I understand that the health and safety of everyone involved must be maintained when assessment of this unit standard is being undertaken. This example lists I understand that I will inform my assessor if I have any special needs that pre-assessment I will record and label any evidence provided in this assessment. information and I understand what is required to gain competency. confirmation. I understand what I need to do with my assessment material when I have completed it (submit my assessment material). I understand how I will get my results. I understand that I can appeal the assessment decision, if I am not happy with I understand that will report my results to NZQA. If you are unsure of any of the above, please contact your assessor/provider. These examples include Assessor/ Provider feedback to trainee space for feedback, and documenting any resits. Attempt 2 Attempt 3 Notes A NYA A NYA A NYA Part 1: Questions Part 2: Observations

- ▶ **Be written in plain language.** This is regardless of the language used, e.g. English, te reo Māori, other languages.
- ▶ Pose no barriers to ākonga (e.g., underserved, LLN, learning disabilities). Assessment is EQUITABLE: it is fair, accessible and values cultural diversity and individual needs.

Internal moderation is an integral component of best practice assessment.

- ▶ Regardless of whether the resources are internally developed or purchased externally, they should be internally pre-moderated.
- Resources must be approved for use by the Standard Setting Body (WDC).

#### 3.3 ASSESSMENT JUDGEMENTS

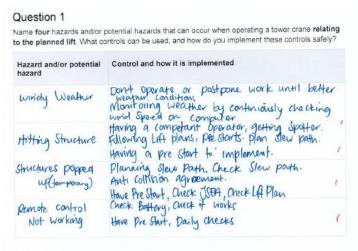
#### Assessment judgements should:

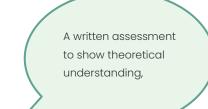
- ▶ Include clear measures and judgement statements that describe acceptable performance levels, and the quantity and quality of evidence required to be deemed sufficient, to ensure consistency in assessment decisions.
- Include clear examples of evidence (or a range of acceptable evidence options) in the Assessor/Evidence Guide and be linked to the skill-specification of the unit-standard or skill standard.

#### Assessment evidence should:

- Align with the learning outcomes and the assessor guide.
- Provide a comprehensive evaluation of ākonga performance, aligned to the learning outcome.

The example below has evidence from multiple sources:

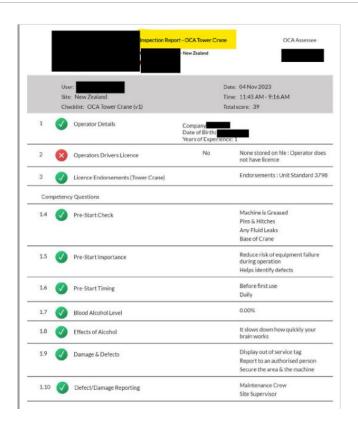


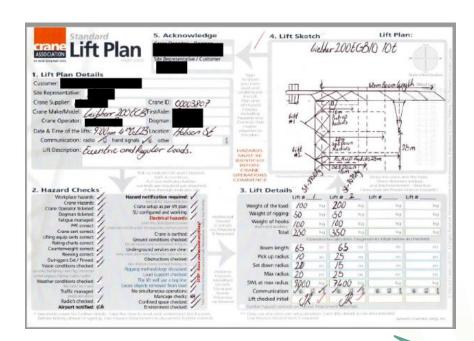


#### Question 2

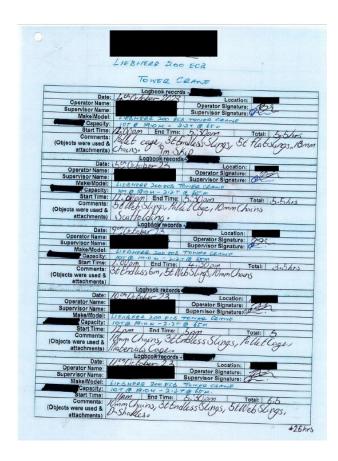
Name two hazards and/or potential hazards that can occur when accessing a tower crane. What controls can be used and, how do you implement these controls safely?

Hazard and/or potential hazard	Control and how it is implemented
Water at the base, Flooding	Ampropring, Use water pump to pump out water, keep clear! Howe daily check.
No anchor point to hook on harness	make sure theres a certified anchor point Report to Manufacturer. Have daily check, the Start.





and supporting documentation



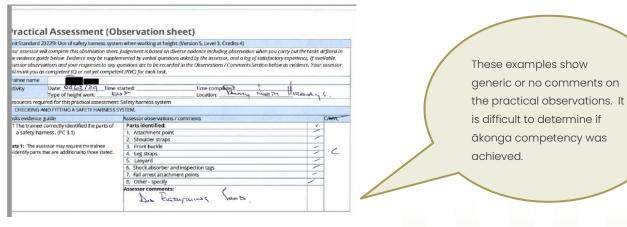
and workplace verification / Crane Operator's Logbook. **Professional conversations** are a valid assessment process. The assessor needs to ensure that the specifics of how ākonga have achieved the unit standard outcomes are clearly documented to support assessment judgements.

#### Workplace evidence should include:

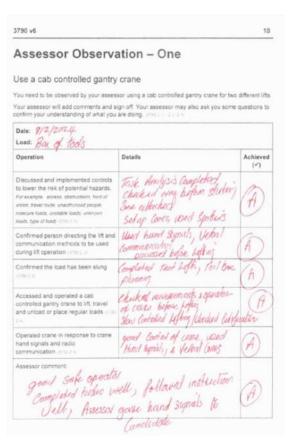
- Verification that ākonga can demonstrate commercial competency for each of the practical requirements of the standard.
- Verification that ākonga have sufficient knowledge for each of the knowledge requirements of the standard.
- Verifier evidence must include the name of the ākonga, employer/ verifier, company name, and date.
- Verification of evidence from all assessment tasks and ākonga involvement in the jobs associated with assessment tasks.

# Practical observations should include supporting evidence:

- ▶ The assessor comments and feedback that supports the assessment decision, based on the practical observation.
- Assessor comments should be detailed and performance-specific.







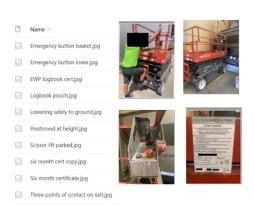
These examples show a sufficient level of commentary for practical observation.

The checkboxes below must be ticked by your TTM Assessor as you comple correctly.  1. Follow company and CoPTTM requirements and use safe work practicular undertake an inspection activity on the lane of category A road environments.  2. Complete required worksite documents according to CoPTTM and you requirements.	te each task	
undertake an inspection activity on the lane of category A road environments.  Complete required worksite documents according to CoPTTM and you		
	Complete required worksite documents according to CoPTTM and your company requirements.	
<b>Attach</b> a copy of the on-site record you have completed for this task. The record should show you followed CoPTTM and company requirer	nents.	
Assessor Comments  derected sche inspection practices good or of trigger points.  Tack was completed as pal of stitic site shallah os R as pol of task 6.		

Photos and videos should have a clear purpose and context.

When submitting photos and videos as evidence, the purpose must be clear, and its context

clearly stated.









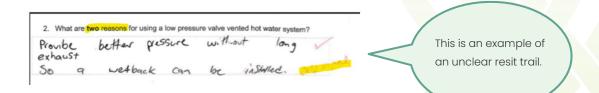




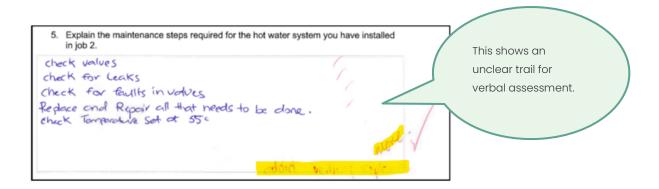
Reversing maneuve

- Professional conversation summaries should clearly outline the key details and be aligned to performance criteria.
- Where feedback is stored in Google classroom or similar teaching apps, it is recommended that internal moderators confirm and document this feedback in the internal post moderation report to ensure a clear evidence trail.
- Assessments should have a clear trail for re-sits and verbal assessments.

Below are examples of assessments where the assessor has correctly identified a re-sit, however there is insufficient evidence of the re-sit trail. Here the assessor has correctly identified where ākonga have provided only one reason while the question requires two reasons to be identified. The assessor has correctly recorded "one more". However, the details of the re-sit are lacking.



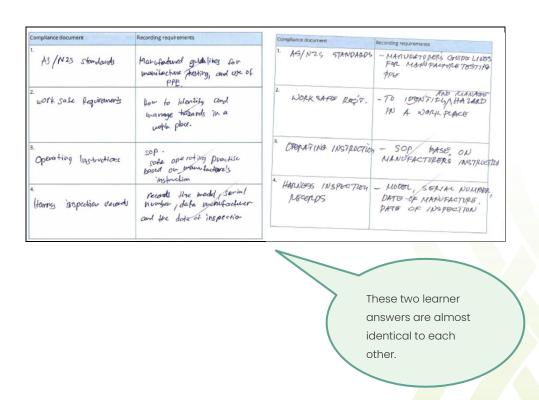
In this example, the assessor has identified that "more" was needed to meet the requirements of "explaining" the maintenance steps required for the hot water installation job. They have then noted, "added verbally explained". However, the ākonga original answers and those written as a result of the re-sit are not identified. Thus, there is an unclear trail of verbal assessment.



▶ Evidence for re-sits can be captured by an assessor summarising or paraphrasing the answer, dating it and including the initials from both the ākonga and the assessor. Using a different coloured pen helps identify the trail.

# Authenticity of evidence

Group assessment is acceptable. However, there should be evidence of individual ākonga competency.



Learning resources and kaiako presentations should be distinct from the sample answers provided in the assessor guides.

Assessor Guide	
5. AS/NZS standards	Manufacturers' guidelines for the manufacture, testing and performance criteria for items of PPE. Advice on the selection use and maintenance of fall arrest equipment
6. Work Safe New Zealand Requirements	Outline strategies for identifying and managing hazards and risks within the workplace. Identifies responsibilities for employers and employees and list penalties for non-compliance.
3. Manufacturer's instructions	Details the correct usage and possible mis uses of the product. Information regarding the lifespan, care and maintenance, the standards met, compatibility with other items and any specific inspection requirements.
4. Operating instructions	Often referred to as standard operating procedures, they are customised by individual workplaces and likely to contain much of the information contained in manufacturers' instructions.

Compliance document	Recording requirements
1. AS NZS Standard	Manufactura guide lines for testing a perma performance criteria Car (ten, of PPE
2. Wark sale New Zendo Degrusowents	and Out we strategies for all the strategies for wand of the strategies of wand of the strategies for the st
3. Manufactory Fustrictions	Details the correct usage a possible instruce to of
4. Operators Instrution	5 Defer to standard operating proceedings, set by individual work places

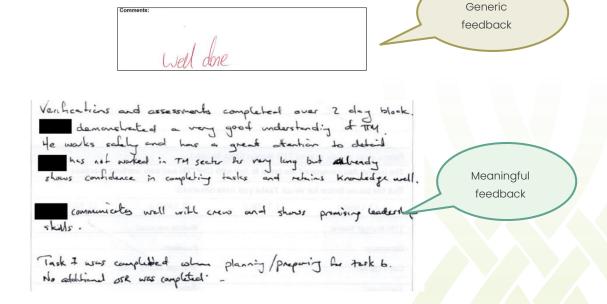
These answers are almost identical to the Assessor Guide.

- Assessment practice should ensure students have gained sufficient knowledge from learning to be able to answer questions in their own words.
- ▶ The assessor must be confident that the work being assessed genuinely belongs to ākonga being assessed, without any external help compromising the integrity of the assessment.

# Assessors should provide meaningful performance-based feedback.

This enables ākonga to reflect on their performance, identify their next steps, and feel valued.

Feedback should be aligned to the assessment task performed, focusing on strengths and areas of improvement for future growth.



▶ Evidence of the assessor's providing ākonga with feedback should be included in postassessment moderation.

Providers should have a process to remedy any issues found within assessment resources, and/or assessor guidance.

- Providers must have a process to address observed issues with assessment resources and assessor guidance, whether internally developed or externally purchased. For example, a pc missing from the assessment resource, resource based on an expiring or expired standard, etc.
- Assessment resources are submitted to Waihanga Ara Rau for pre-assessment moderation, following changes. 'Changes' refer to version changes for the standard, or where the context, tasks, or outcomes of the assessment have changed.
- Where changes are minor, contact the SSB to determine if they need external preassessment moderation.
- Feedback on Waihanga Ara Rau-developed standards should be emailed to <a href="mailed-qualifications@waihangaararau.nz">qualifications@waihangaararau.nz</a>.

# 4. FURTHER SUPPORT

Watch a recording of the Assessor Practice webinar that this guideline is based on.

If you need further information and support email moderation@waihangaararau.nz.