

New Zealand Certificate in Concrete Construction Skills (Level 3) [Ref: 4189 v2]

with strands in Formwork, Reinforcing, Placing and Finishing, Specified Concrete Finishes, Concrete Product Manufacture, Concrete Sawing and Drilling, and Precast Concrete Manufacture

Purpose

This document presents the proposed key changes to the Concrete Construction qualifications at Level 3. This has already been shared with the Waihanga Ara Rau Construction Advisory Group and other tangata whai mana (interested parties) and are being presented here as part of the ongoing consultation process.

Key changes

Now	Proposed future	Why?
Qualification Graduate Purpose Outcome statements		
GPO: Operate to the required safety, technical, quality and productivity standards expected of a commercial concrete worker.	Work safely, responsibly and sustainably in a construction environment.	Simplifies the wording and broadens it to cover sustainability and responsibility across construction contexts, aligning with current industry expectations.
GPO: Demonstrate responsibility for own learning and performance in the concrete construction industry.	Interpret, communicate, calculate and apply construction information for concrete construction tasks.	Focuses on communication, interpretation of plans and specifications and literacy and numeracy skills, reflecting what industry values.
GPO: Apply teamwork and communication skills in a concrete construction workplace.	Plan, use and manage tools and equipment for concrete construction tasks.	Technical and operational competence. Industry feedback highlighted that the ability to safely use and manage tools and equipment is a core skill essential for all concrete workers.
Formwork strand: GPO: Apply working knowledge of current practices and technologies to construct formwork for concrete structures.	Formwork strand: GPO: Apply working knowledge of current practices and technologies to construct and dismantle formwork for concrete structures.	Adds “dismantle” to reflect full scope of the work.



Reinforcing strand: GPO: Apply working knowledge of current practices and technologies to bend and fix reinforcing materials.	Reinforcing strand: GPO: Apply working knowledge of current practices and technologies to handle, store and install reinforcing materials for concrete structures.	Expands to include safe handling and storage, reflecting industry best practice.
Unit standards used within the programmes.	The qualification sets out skill standards that align with the graduate profile outcomes.	Provides clarity and consistency of the skills and knowledge industry expects from graduates of the qualification.
Qualification credit allocation		
Core of the qualification is 35 credits . Tools and equipment outcomes are included in some individual strands rather than across all.	The Core now totals 40 credits . Plan, use and manage tools and equipment for concrete construction tasks has been moved into the Core and includes skill standards: 40310 Use and store hand and power tools for construction tasks (Level 2) (2 credits) and 40311 Manage tool and equipment use in a construction environment (Level 3) (3 credits).	Industry agreed that use and management of tool and equipment are essential core competencies that all learners must demonstrate. Including these skills in the Core ensures consistent, foundational capability across all strands.
Credits: 50 - 60	Credits: 50 - 65	Reflects the expanded learning requirements across core and strand skill standards.
Learner pathways		
Graduates of this qualification will have the skills and knowledge required to carry out concrete trade work in the building and construction industry. Career pathways may also include roles in concrete	Graduates of this qualification will have the skills and knowledge required to carry out concrete trade work in the building, construction and infrastructure industries.	The update reflects the broader industry coverage of this qualification, recognising that concrete construction takes place across building, civil, and infrastructure environments.



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construction organisations employing general concrete construction workers or teams of concrete construction specialists.	Career pathways may also include roles in concrete construction organisations employing general concrete construction workers or teams of concrete construction specialists. Examples of roles include: concrete labourer, reinforcing hand, concrete finisher assistant, precast yard worker, and formwork assistant.	Adding specific role examples provides clarity for learners, employers, and providers.
Progression between qualification levels was unclear	Complexity terms introduced – Level 3 defined as “standard complexity”	Helps learners, tutors, and employers understand how Level 3 fits within a wider career pathway.
Introduction of industry developed skill standards in the qualification		
Tasks and expectations vary widely between employers/apprentices and learning contexts	Clearly defined expectations for standard complexity work across all contexts has been included in the skill standards	Clarifies the scope of expected of Level 3 graduates – straightforward tasks using familiar materials, tools, and techniques under supervision.
Shared skills across construction trades not easily recognised	Core and transferable skill standard shared with other construction trades such as Carpentry have been identified and listed in the qualification.	Enables easier movement between trades and supports flexible career pathways.
The current programme leading to the qualification only includes unit standards at Level 3 only	Introduction of Level 2 and Level 3 skill standards	Makes it easier to track learner progress and provide clear milestones, recognise prior learning, and re-enter training at the right level.