

New Zealand Certificate in Concrete Construction (Commercial and Civil Infrastructure) (Level 4)

[Ref: 4188 v2]

with optional strands in Precast Concrete Elements and Post-tensioned Concrete

Purpose

This document presents the proposed key changes to the Concrete Construction qualifications at Level 4. These changes reflect outcomes of consultation with the project's Advisory Group and other tangata whai mana (interested parties). We are pleased to share the outcomes of this engagement ahead of submission to NZQA for evaluation.

Key changes

Now	Proposed future	Why?
Title: New Zealand Certificate in Concrete Construction (Commercial and Civil Infrastructure) (Level 4) with optional strands in Premanufactured Elements and Post-tensioned Concrete	Title: New Zealand Certificate in Concrete Construction (Commercial and Civil Infrastructure) (Level 4) with optional strands in Precast Concrete Elements and Post-tensioned Concrete	"Premanufactured Elements" updated to "Precast Concrete Elements" to reflect current industry terminology.
Credits: 120–130	Credits: 140–160	Reflects the expanded learning requirements across core and strand skill standards, ensuring coverage of both standard and moderate complexity work.
Purpose: This qualification is for people currently working in commercial building or civil infrastructure construction or for people from other construction-related trades	Purpose: This qualification is for people currently working in or entering the commercial building or civil infrastructure construction trades, or for people from other construction-related trades backgrounds	Broadens the entry scope to include people entering the trade.



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backgrounds who intend to work in the commercial or civil infrastructure construction industry.	who intend to work in the commercial building or civil infrastructure construction industry.	
Qualification Graduate Purpose Outcome statements		
GPO: Apply broad knowledge of regulatory frameworks to concrete construction.	GPO: Apply broad knowledge of compliance and technical practices to plan and implement concrete construction projects.	Combines regulatory and technical aspects to better reflect responsibilities at Level 4.
GPO: Operate to the standards expected of a commercially competent concrete construction tradesperson.	GPO: Operate to the standards expected of a commercially competent concrete construction tradesperson by maintaining quality, professionalism and positive work relationships.	Expands the outcome to highlight leadership, professional conduct and positive relationships.
GPO: Recognise problems and evaluate solutions in concrete construction.	GPO: Apply broad knowledge of current practices and technologies to construct and dismantle formwork of standard and moderate complexity for concrete structures.	Replaces a generic cognitive skill with a defined technical competency, aligning with industry-specific tasks.
GPO: Practise effective communication and teamwork to contribute to team objectives in concrete construction.	GPO: Apply broad knowledge of current practices and technologies to handle, store and install reinforcing steel and materials of standard and moderate complexity for concrete structures.	Replaces a generic soft-skills outcome to a defined technical application that matches industry-specific tasks.
GPO: Lead own learning and manage own standard of performance in concrete construction.	GPO: Apply broad knowledge of current practices and technologies to place and finish concrete of	Replaces self-management with tangible trade skills representing the higher-level technical work expected of Level 4 learners.



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	standard and moderate complexity for concrete structures.	
Prefabricated Elements strand: GPO: Apply knowledge of current practices and technologies and follow requirements to integrate prefabricated elements into a building or structure.	Precast Concrete Elements strand: GPO: Apply knowledge of current practices and technologies to position and secure precast concrete elements within concrete construction projects.	Terminology updated to align with industry language (“precast” vs “prefabricated”) and to describe specific practical tasks.
Post-tensioned Concrete strand: GPO: Apply knowledge of current practices and technologies and follow requirements to post-tension concrete in-situ.	Post-tensioned Concrete strand: GPO: Apply knowledge of current practices and technologies and follow requirements to post-tension concrete structures.	Clarifies that post-tensioning may occur in different structural contexts, not limited to in-situ work.
Introduction of industry developed skill standards in the qualification		
Standards were trade-specific and isolated	Core skill standards are shared across concrete, carpentry, and related apprenticeships	Promotes consistency, transferability, and workforce mobility across the wider construction sector.
Programme content includes unit standards and is currently delivered by a single provider.	Mandatory skill standards will define learning outcomes, allowing different providers to deliver programmes using the same skill standards.	Ensures all graduates meet consistent national expectations, regardless of provider.
Recognition of prior learning was difficult and inconsistent.	Transparent cross-crediting will be possible through shared skill standards.	Supports smoother transitions, recognises previous experience.



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Standard related changes		
Unit Standard 32587: Learners were required to establish the site.	Skill Standard Work Zone: The focus shifts to maintaining a defined work zone.	Reflects real-world practice where sites are already established in commercial or civil settings.
Unit Standard 32588: Learners were required to complete surveying tasks.	Skill Standard Set Out: The focus is on locating and confirming control lines, datum points, and concrete levels.	Clarifies boundaries — learners verify accuracy rather than perform surveying tasks.
Unit Standard 32589: Learners carried out excavation and groundworks.	Skill Standard Base: The focus is on confirming base levels and installing or protecting barrier systems.	Better reflects the coordination, verification, and quality assurance responsibilities expected of Level 4 workers.
Unit Standard 32591: Learners were required to calculate and order reinforcing steel and materials to meet job requirements.	Skill Standard Reinforcing 3: Learners confirm and prepare reinforcing materials to meet the reinforcing steel plan, specifications, and associated bar tags and schedules.	Industry confirmed that at apprentice level, learners do not calculate or place material orders themselves. Their responsibility is to confirm that the correct materials have been supplied and prepared, reflecting real workplace practice.
All tasks treated as similar in scope	Complexity levels introduced – Level 4 defined as “moderate complexity”	Distinguishes higher-level coordination and technical problem-solving skills.