

Electricity Supply Level 2 Introductory Qualification Development

Steering Group meeting 15th June 2012

Attendees

Rachel Brown	Genesis
Paul Civil	Energy Trainers
Owen Cotton	ABB
Mark Keller	MRP
Ravi Kolluru	WEL
Martin Lockwood	Wintec
Gill McVie	Omaka
Phil Neal	Northpower
Stephen Price	CPIT
Christine Shears	Electra
Tim Stevens	ESITO
Graeme Teesdale	ESITO

Apologies

Mike Buchanan	Top Energy
Stephanie Cameron-Miller	Genesis
Lynley Dunn	Contact
Lou Ewington	MRP
Graeme Johnson	Electrix
Evan Lousley	Meridian
Aaron McIntosh	Unison
Phil Osborne	Energy Trainers

Outcomes from the meeting

The objective of the meeting was outlined, that being to continue the work initiated at the first meeting in February and review what competencies are required to meet the outcomes in the graduate profile. ESITO reported that the submission to NZQA of the requirements of the Targeted Review of Qualifications had been made in March, but that NZQA had not yet responded to the submission, and it is not anticipated that they will do so before the end of July. We do not therefore know what additional requirements/evidence etc. maybe required in order to satisfy NZQA and gain approval to develop the proposed qualifications. The group are therefore working against the submitted graduate profile with the understanding that some of the detail in the profile may change.

At the previous meeting a concern was raised about duplication between standards, which led to trainees having to undertake the same tasks to obtain a standard as they'd already undertaken in order to achieve a previous standard. Following the meeting ESITO reviewed the proposed standards but did not uncover any obvious duplication. However, as the group reviews the standards this potential problem will be kept in mind.

The question was raised about the suitability of the proposed qualification for office based staff, and whether there would be any demand for the qualification from such staff. Some of the group considered that the proposed qualification contained competencies that could not be achieved by anyone office based. It was also questioned why these staff would want this qualification, and that there are other more suitable qualifications that are in the admin/business/computer fields. However, some of the group thought there would be demand for the qualification from such staff, and it would be welcomed by employers who would know that the potential employee had some knowledge of the industry. ESITO has also received feedback from industry of demand from the call centre and retail sector. It was agreed that the query over the achievement of competencies be 'parked' until firm evidence of this is found in a unit standard/s.

The group revisited the 'Strategic purpose statement' and made two revisions. 'It is a foundation certificate, suitable for all entrants to the industry whether they intend to work in trades or in an administrative capacity.' was changed to read 'It is a foundation certificate, suitable for all entrants to the industry.' 'The certificate entitles the graduate to become a registered trainee within the generation, distribution and transmission sectors of the Electricity Supply industry.' was changed to read 'The certificate is suitable for people wishing to become trainees within the generation, distribution and transmission sectors of the Electricity Supply industry.' This change reflected the fact that in order to become a 'registered trainee' a 'Trainee Limited Certificate' (TLC) was required and this qualification did not entitle a trainee to a TLC. A trainee has to apply to the EWRB for a TLC, either with proof of attending the appropriate safety training, or of having achieved the unit standards recognised as covering the safety training. It was discussed whether these standards could be part of this qualification, but the question of how appropriate these standards are to those other than domestic electricians is still being discussed with the EWRB, and the fact remains that achieving this qualification would not in itself entitle the graduate to be a registered trainee. Minor editorial changes were also made to the Education pathway so it reads better, and the Level 3 Operator qualification was added. While graduates of this qualification wishing to pursue a career as an Operator would proceed on to the level 3 Operator qualification, this qualification will not be a prerequisite to the Operator qualification as there are experienced industry people who join the Operator pathway for whom an entry level qualification is not relevant. It was also questioned why 'retail of electricity' was included under 'likely contexts of work'.

The group then considered the competencies to meet the first outcome 'Understand how the electricity supply acts and regulations govern industry practice.' It was agreed that it was important that trainees knew the regulations which applied to the type of work they were undertaking, and knew where to find them. While they should not be expected to know all the acts and regulations in detail, they should be aware of them and which aspects of work they cover – it was important to know how to locate them in order to check the detail when required.

The competencies required to meet the second outcome 'Understand how health and safety is applied to the Electrical Supply Industry' were then considered, commencing with personal protection equipment (PPE). It was agreed that PPE is not tested beyond a visual wear and tear check, and the last date of inspection is checked to make sure it has not expired and another inspection is not yet due. Overalls should be added to the range of PPE and 'fall arrest equipment' is now known as 'fall protection equipment'. Trainees should be aware that all PPE must be clean and dry before it is stored, and that

gloves and eye wear should be stored appropriately. The status of PPE is no longer reported – damaged PPE is not repaired, it is discarded and replaced.

Restricted entry was then considered. Existing documentation needs updating as Entry Approval Certificates no longer exist. It was not necessary to go beyond safe entry.

The remaining competencies are to be considered at the next meeting which will probably be held in September, by which time it is expected that the outcomes from the NZQA pre-approval to develop process will be known and can be dealt with.

Tim Stevens
Industry Standards Development Officer
July 2012