



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AO!

19 August 2015

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Secretary
Institute of Quarrying New Zealand
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Dear Petrina

Recent developments in NZQA's quality assurance of extractives training

I am writing to provide you with information about the quality assurance work that the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) has been doing in relation to extractives training.

I would also like to provide some context and information about the recent withdrawal of Industry Training New Zealand Limited's (ITNZ's) consent to assess against extractives unit standards so that you can ensure that the members of your association have clear and accurate information.

Background to NZQA's quality assurance work in the extractives industry

NZQA and MITO have together conducted proactive monitoring visits to all providers that are actively delivering extractives training. This was a joint initiative in close collaboration with WorkSafe.

The monitoring visits were a response to several factors, including:

- Recently gazetted requirements for Certificates of Competence which included new safety-critical unit standard requirements.
- The anticipated volume of trainees needing to up-skill during 2015.
- The relatively small number of trainers with the necessary knowledge and experience to deliver some of the unit standards in question.
- Anecdotal feedback that had been provided to WorkSafe about the quality of training across the sector.
- The experience of the Australian extractives industry when similar training requirements were introduced.

Following the monitoring visits, NZQA published an information sheet for trainees, employers and industry groups in the extractives industry. The information sheet describes NZQA's role, who is allowed to assess and report unit standards and what to do if there are concerns about training.

You can access this information sheet at: <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/news/extractives/>

Withdrawal of ITNZ's consent to assess against extractives unit standards

You may be aware that ITNZ is no longer able to deliver, assess, or report unit standards in any of the following domains:

- Extractive Industries Management
- Surface Extraction
- Underground Extraction

Some important points to note are:

- Consent to assess is a privilege that is granted to NZQA-recognised education providers (e.g. registered private training establishments).
- Individual trainers cannot, and do not, receive consent to assess directly from NZQA.
- Individual trainers are only allowed to train and assess unit standards when they are operating under a lawful arrangement with an education provider which has been granted consent to assess those unit standards (e.g. a sub-contracting arrangement that has been approved by NZQA).
- ITNZ had consent to assess against the unit standards in question. However, ITNZ did not have a lawful arrangement with the trainers that were delivering and assessing on its behalf, and did not rectify this despite having had reasonable time and opportunity to do so.
- The withdrawal of ITNZ's consent to assess is not a judgement of the quality of the training or assessment that was being offered by any particular trainer engaged to provide training on ITNZ's behalf. Their standing as a trainer and assessor is not affected by the withdrawal of ITNZ's consent to assess.
- ITNZ's trainers are not allowed to continue training or assessing the unit standards in question through ITNZ, and they are not allowed to train or assess in their own right. However, some of ITNZ's trainers may (now or in the future) deliver training and assessment under a lawful arrangement with MITO or an education provider with consent to assess.

I want to assure you that NZQA did not make this decision lightly. The withdrawal of consent followed careful consideration and due process. However, all education providers are required to take responsibility for complying with NZQA's rules regarding training and assessment, and NZQA must be able to have full confidence that this is the case.

NZQA recognises the disruption that has been caused for people who were in the middle of training with ITNZ. However, given the potential health and safety implications for people employed in the industry, ongoing non-compliance with NZQA's rules is not acceptable.

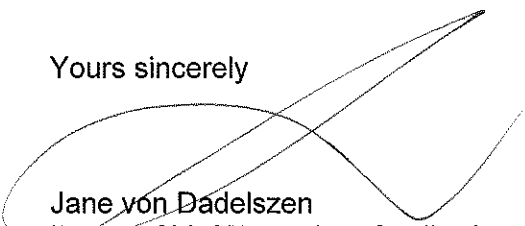
NZQA has made information available to trainees and employers who have been affected by the withdrawal of ITNZ's consent to assess. This can be found on NZQA's website:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/news/withdrawal-of-industry-training-new-zealands-consent-to-assess-against-standards-in-the-extractive-industries-sub-field-information-for-trainees/>

NZQA encourages you to share this information with the members of your association and to support them to take proactive steps towards making alternative arrangements for their employees' training and assessment as outlined above.

If you have any enquiries, you can contact Sharon Clark, Principal Risk Case Analyst, by telephone at 04 463 3200 or email sharon.clark@nzqa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Jane von Dadelszen
Deputy Chief Executive, Quality Assurance