



Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board
of New Zealand

Competency Assessment Framework for Initial Licensing

Update for the Surveying Community – September 2026

A. COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE UPDATES

The Board has updated the Competency Assessment Guideline following feedback received from pilot participants and assessors. The revised Guideline will apply to all applicants intending to participate in the **2027 assessment process**.

The main changes from the March 2026 version are outlined below. Applicants are encouraged to review the full Guideline, particularly the evidence requirements relevant to their portfolios and covering reports.

Sub-Competency Wording

- Some of the sub-competencies have been reworded in the Portfolio of Experience to make it easier for applicants to articulate how their projects demonstrate their proficiency, and for the assessors to understand this. In some cases, the new wording makes more chronological sense as an applicant works through the sub-competencies, and in other places it removes areas where repetition was occurring. The intent of the sub-competencies remains largely the same, but applicants will need to ensure their reports refer to the latest wording.
- Some new sub-competencies have been added in the Portfolio of Experience, which will need to be addressed by applicants in 2027:
 - Boundary Definition – second bullet point under ‘Interpretation’ regarding analysing field measurements
 - Statutory Planning Process – third bullet point regarding designing boundaries
 - Land Development Engineering principles – fourth bullet point regarding determining the spatial extent of restrictions
- Where relevant, the new wording has been included in the sub-competencies for the Professional Challenge and Professional Interview stages.

Portfolio of Experience – Evidence needed

- **Covering Reports** (Pages 8-9): The guidance has been strengthened to emphasise the applicant’s own role, actions, decisions and professional judgement. Reports must explain how and why the submitted work demonstrates proficiency, rather than simply describe the work undertaken. The report structure suggested in the March 2026 version of the Guideline is now compulsory, and an Artificial Intelligence Disclosure Statement has been incorporated into that structure. Applicants will need to ensure their covering reports follow this format for the 2027 assessment intake.

- **Request for Further Information and Provisional Acceptance** (Page 10): The distinction between minor requests for further information and provisional acceptance of the Portfolio of Experience has been clarified. Further information is not intended to provide an opportunity to substantially change or replace an original submission.
- **Survey Measurement** (Pages 12): The evidence requirements have been clarified. The two mandatory elements — a topographical survey and a survey control network — may be demonstrated within a single job, provided both are demonstrated to a sufficient level of complexity.
- **Statutory Planning Process** (Page 16): The requirements for the two mandatory projects have been clarified, including the alternative essay critiquing an approved subdivision consent and application plan. The two mandatory elements may be covered within a single job where the required complexity is demonstrated.
- **Land Development Engineering Principles** (Page 17): Two mandatory project elements are now specified: a land transfer survey involving boundaries and rights associated with constructed works and/or natural hazards, and an as-built survey of infrastructure used to define new title and easement boundaries. These may be covered within a single job where both elements have sufficient complexity demonstrated.

Assessment Process

- **Professional Challenge** (Page 20): The format and marking process have been clarified, including the four separate challenges, the possible outcomes, and the provision of feedback.
- **Professional Interview** (Page 24): Further guidance has been added on the interview format, requisitions, decisions and completion of the assessment stage.

Applicants intending to participate in the 2027 assessment process should familiarise themselves with the revised Guideline and ensure that their portfolios, selected projects and covering reports are prepared in accordance with the updated requirements. In particular, applicants should ensure that their reports clearly articulate how their own work demonstrates proficiency in the relevant sub-competencies.

The updated Competency Assessment Guideline September 2026 can be found at the following link:

[News & Publications-CSLB](#)

If you have any issues or questions, please contact the Examinations Coordinator at examinations.coordinator@cslb.org.nz

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