



**Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board  
of New Zealand**

7 September 2023

**COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK REDESIGN WEBINAR**  
**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

The following are the questions asked by participants during the webinar held on 23 August 2023 outlining the re-design of the assessment framework for a certificate of competency required by those seeking an initial licence, together with answers. They are given based on the best information available at this time. Readers should understand that the proposed framework may still evolve as it passes through the re-design and consultation process, and the indicative timings may also change. A recording of the webinar is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZArNcf8QZs>.

*Q1: If the new licensing regime is to be done sequentially, how long do you expect the whole process to take?*

A: A minimum of 2 years following graduation based on the 2 year work experience requirement, unless dispensation is granted by the Board for prior work experience. However, the total time taken by an applicant will depend on many factors as is the case at the moment. Once the Portfolio of Experience is completed, it is expected that the applicant would progress through the other stages in quick succession.

*Q2: What is the pathway to Registration for an experienced Technician, or is this path not proposed?*

A: There is no specified pathway to licensing for technicians in accordance with the Council of Reciprocating Survey Boards of Australia and New Zealand (CRSBANZ) standards. The minimum academic requirement for licensing is a 4 year tertiary educational qualification from New Zealand or Australia in surveying, recognised by the Board, or the equivalent thereof as determined by the Bureau for the Assessment of Overseas Qualifications. An approved bridging course to bring a diploma qualification to the academic equivalent of a degree is a possible option. In exceptional circumstances the Board may consider an application from a very experienced and suitably qualified technician.

*Q3: Based on the timeline of the new competency assessment framework stated on the consultation document, the timeline to implement the new framework was late 2024.*

A: That is the proposed timeline currently.

- Q4: Would there still be a cadastral law exam held in 2024? If yes, do you still need to obtain a pass if you are planning to sit the interview in 2025?*
- A: Yes, there will be a cadastral law examination in 2024. If you are following the existing pathway as outlined on the S+SNZ website then a pass will be required as a pre-requisite for your professional interview in 2025. Alternatively, it is anticipated that if you follow the redesigned pathway, a pass in the cadastral law exam will be credited towards your Professional Challenge and if you do not pass, then the full Professional Challenge requirement will apply.
- Q5: Will current extraordinary agreements be upheld (e.g. non-BSurv routes)? Also, what's your thoughts on old - new transition periods, and "holiday breaks" for 1 - 2 years?*
- A: Refer to the answer to Q2 above regarding non BSurv route. It is anticipated that the transition period will be 1 to 2 years. 'Holiday Breaks' will be assessed by the Board on a case by case basis.
- Q6: Any changes in the Professional Examination 2024?*
- A: It will remain unchanged until the new competency assessment pathway is finalised and implemented which is proposed near the end of 2024. It is anticipated that there will then be a transition period.
- Q7: Do you expect that applicants would need multiple interviews over more than a year? If so, would there be a commitment from assessors, that even if they intended standing down from their role, that they would complete subsequent interviews on the applicants they had done initial interviews?*
- A: The purpose of the Professional Interview is to confirm a candidate's competency having successfully completed the Portfolio of Experience and Professional Challenge, and will be the final gateway to enable the issue of a Certificate of Competency. Multiple interviews over more than a year are not anticipated. To address any succession or passage of time issues, it is envisaged that the assessors will make detailed notes of each candidates Portfolio of Experience and the results of their Professional Challenge so that any competency concerns or deficiencies can be referred to and addressed as part of the Professional Interview by whoever the assessors are at the time. This may result in a 'requisition' to undertake additional work to confirm a particular competency for example, which could be assessed as soon as practically possible after the Professional Interview.
- Q8: ... a follow on question. Is the assessment panel setting the challenges the same as the interview panel? I had the impression there was an intention to establish an ongoing relationship with the applicant over the assessment period?*
- A: Ideally, they would be the same or similar however due to succession, and allowing for redundancy as a result of unavailability, this may not be the case. The intention is to develop a relationship with the candidate over the assessment period.
- Q9: Would the board consider starting the transitional period now for the next 2024 prof interview intake? i.e., via a statement outlining specific areas that could be considered 'transitional'. Such as the CV as opposed to the detailed diary. (edited)*
- A: That is very unlikely at this point in time, as the re-designed pathway, including the specific requirements thereof, need to be finalised before any transitional period is started.

*Q10: If the Board settles on a once per year schedule, would a failure of the professional challenge or interview mean that the candidate would need to wait a full year to have another go? Or would candidates needing to re-sit have an earlier opportunity? (edited)*

A: The purpose of the Professional Challenge is to test a candidates competency as they have demonstrated in their Portfolio of Experience, which includes a signed declaration and attestation from their sponsoring licensed cadastral surveyor that they are competent. Therefore, the candidate should feel confident in their competency before undertaking the Professional Challenge and as a result it is not envisaged that there will be many failures. However, in the event of a failure, the candidate would obviously need more work experience, and this could be gained over the following year before the next Professional Challenge (although a new Portfolio of Experience would not need to be submitted). With regard to the Professional Interview refer to the answer to Q7 above. The Board would appreciate any feedback on the frequency of the Professional Challenge and Professional Interview, including rational and justification.

*Q11: How soon can the "Register of Applicants" be available for graduates to submit their details and anticipated presentation?*

A: It is possible that the register may be made available prior to the proposed new assessment framework being finalised by the middle of 2024, and implemented in late 2024, as anticipated however this has yet to be confirmed. It is noted that the Register could be established independently of the new assessment framework.

*Q12: Could you please elaborate on the Board's position regarding S+S NZ's new qualifications and whether the competencies tested under those qualifications will affect the licensing competencies under Schedule 1?*

A: The proposed new competency assessment framework could potentially recognise and credit competencies that have been tested and confirmed under other regimes that specifically relate to the competencies in Schedule 1 of the Standards.

*Q13: The exams coordinator, and examination panel... will be volunteers? How will they cope without salaried staff for a large chunk of their admin.*

A: No, they will not be volunteers. It is envisaged that the Examinations Coordinator will either sit with the Board or a third party provider and the costs of administrative support will come from those entities. It is proposed that the costs associated with the Assessment Panel, including the assessors time, will be reimbursed from fees paid by the candidates.

*Q14: Do you see the Examinations Coordinator being totally independent of the Board and the third-party provider? Or could be part of one of those bodies?*

A: It is unlikely and not envisaged that they would be independent as that role is an integral part of the proposed new framework.

*Q15: How large a role do you think the Examinations Coordinator will have and how will that role be funded, especially at the start before the fees come in?*

A: The Examinations Coordinator role is very important and will be an integral part of the administration of the framework. It is not envisaged that it will be a full time role, but rather part time, and will be funded by the Board. Therefore, the cost of this role will not be included in the candidates fees as it is considered to be an administrative function of the Board in terms of the Act.

Q16: *Does the sponsoring LCS need to be a New Zealander, or can they be from abroad?*

A: It is expected that the sponsoring LCS will be a New Zealander who knows the candidate well, is fully engaged with their work experience, and is very familiar with all the competency requirements. It is noted that the sponsoring LCS may not need to be a current LCS, but a former LCS who has a senior role in mentoring candidates for example.

Q17: *Can the board look at 'sprucing up' the look of the certificate of competence? Some long days and nights have been spent getting the holy grail, it looks pretty mediocre.*

A: The Board will consider that as part of the competency assessment redesign. A box of gold stickers has been ordered as a trial.

Q18: *If we propose to get licensed under the new framework, what should we be doing between now and late 2024 when the actual framework is released?*

A: Focus on the competencies and look for projects and experience in your workplace that relate to them.

Q19: *I'm keen to start putting together my portfolio of experience so I'm ready to go as soon as the new framework starts. Is the list of competencies we need to demonstrate already available? Do you think I should sit the cadastral law exam next year or just wait? (edited)*

A: Yes it is available on the Boards website under the 'Licensing' tab and then the 'Standards for Licensing' section. The competencies are described in Schedule 1 at the end of the Standards. Refer to the answer to Q4 above regarding sitting the cadastral law exam. The choice is yours.

Q20: *What are the consequences for a supervising LCS that has been found to have falsely attested as to the competency of their candidate?*

A: The Board would consider this to be extremely unprofessional and would require a specific interview with the sponsoring LCS. Furthermore, it would be taken into consideration when that LCS applied for the annual renewal of their licence as it would be in conflict with the professional conduct competency.

Q21: *What relationship will this new process have to the SSNZ 'voting member interviews'; the old NZIS interview process. In parallel, part of or basically make that process a bit irrelevant.*

A: The competency assessment process for an initial licence is very focused and specific to the Board only. It is not being redesigned to support any function of S+SNZ and it would be their decision to use it, or any part of it, for any particular purpose.

Q22: *If someone is aiming to sit professional interviews at the end of 2024, is it safe to work to the current framework?*

A: Yes.

## Neale Faulkner

**Chair - Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board of NZ**