

Sawmilling and Timber Processing Project

Summary of Feedback, Responses and Actions



22 February 2022

Draft units of competency for skills in timber and wood products production operations were made available on the [Skills Impact website](#) for stakeholder review from 14 February to 23 March 2022. Please visit the website to view a full list of the documents that were submitted for consultation during these phases.

Feedback was received via email, the Skills Impact Feedback Hub, webinars and phone as follows:

	ACT**	NSW	NT**	Qld	SA	Tas**	Vic	WA	National
Industry (employer / employee)									
Industry association*									
Union*									
Registered Training Organisation (RTO) *									
Government department									

* Ninety-eight stakeholders were contacted directly via email to engage in project consultations. These individuals included representatives from industry associations and regional hubs, employers, registered training organisations and skills advisory bodies in each state. The majority of associations and skills advisory bodies distributed the project's information and links to draft components to their members to encourage participation. Along with the news updates issued by Skills Impact, editorial and advertisement messages about the project and its consultations were published in external industry publications such as Daily Timber News. Representatives from the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union (CFMMEU) were kept informed of the project and encouraged to communicate it to members. No specific feedback has been provided on the components by industry associations or CFMMEU at this stage.

** No feedback was received from the ACT, NT or TAS during the 'drafts available' stage. The timber processing sector in these states is small when compared with other states.

Feedback received during the 'drafts available' period for the units of competency has been positive, with minor changes or updates suggested by stakeholders.

Below is a summary of the feedback raised for the draft qualifications, units of competency and skill sets developed and reviewed for the Sawmilling and Timber Processing Project, and how these have been dealt with. This involves a consideration of the information provided, views of industry stakeholders and from people who are part of the Subject Matter Expert Working Group process. Resolutions are constructed to consider the needs and views of stakeholders to the extent possible, and to comply with the *Standards for Training Package 2012*. The resolutions may represent a compromise on one or more stakeholder views with the aim of a workable outcome for industry, State and Territory Training Authorities (STAs) and training providers.

Acronyms - PC – Performance Criteria, PE – Performance Evidence, KE – Knowledge Evidence, AC – Assessment Conditions, SMEs – Subject Matter Experts, AHC – Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management, MEM – Manufacturing and Engineering

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Summary of Feedback on Draft Qualifications

General Comments

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues	Consideration and Proposed Resolution
<p>Employer (QLD, WA, VIC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new qualifications offer a relevant selection of courses. All the units are relevant to what we are using and operating on our sites. There is a clear development and growth requirement for each level that accurately reflects the skill base required. I don't see any need for changes to what is proposed. Finger Jointing and Manufacturing Glulam are very relevant and will develop further in the EWP space for Hardwood companies. Testing FJ/Glulam and developing knowledge of Glulam is very pivotal to our businesses and the course/modules are accurately worded for the industry. I especially like the new communication module in dealing with the public concerned about forest practices These units describe the tasks and knowledge required in the workplace, and it's a credit to the staff that worded these documents and course modules. Our industry has an enormous amount of specific words and jargon relating to processes, products and job skills, and the understanding of what knowledge is required surprised me with its accuracy. I am more than happy with the addition of the new modules, have no problems with the modules being deleted and agree with the modules being revised. 	<p>Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of our sites are using Scanning Machinery for Grading and these machines are communication directly to Optimising saws or other optimising systems. This for us is something that we offer in house training to achieve at the operator level. Perhaps it could be looked at in more depth next round? 	<p>Noted. The updated Certificate III includes two new units of competency for using and calibrating scanning equipment that were developed as part of a previous project. It also includes a new unit that teaches how to apply optimisation principles in sawmilling operations to increase timber value and volume recovery.</p>

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Employer (NSW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cert III and IV covers a lot of the key topics for our business; Develop Knowledge of Veneer and Plywood are the most relevant. 	Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two areas that could be considered, if not already covered in a topic are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste Management NHVR Chain of Responsibility 	<p>Adopted. Based on further consultations, the following units have been added to the Cert IV and III to address the topics requested:</p> <p>Cert IV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPPWMT4003 Implement waste management plans CPPWMT4010 Assess and advise on waste avoidance options TLIF0014 Monitor the safety of transport activities (Chain of Responsibility) <p>Cert III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPPWMT3002 Conduct waste resource recovery TLIF0009 Ensure the safety of transport activities (Chain of Responsibility) <p>All the above units are current and 'cross sector' in nature; there is no barrier to them being used in a timber industry context.</p>
Employer (SA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lot of thought has gone into the qualifications - nice work! Overall, I would say they hit the mark. 	Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support.
Employer (NSW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the updated qualifications; they appear very relevant to our business and production operators, particularly the Cert III and the units on adhesives and glulam processes. They use the correct terminology and outline the skills and knowledge that are needed. 	Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support.

FWP2XX22 Certificate II in Timber and Wood Products Operations

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (National)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the MEM brazing unit is going to be in this qualification then the pre-requisites also need to be available- preferably in Group A as there is nothing else in Group A for saw technicians. 	Thank you for the note. The MEM prerequisites have been added to Group A.
RTO (VIC)	<p>Regarding prerequisite requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could not select unit MEM05006 under the packaging rules. Qualification does not include these three prerequisites. 	Adopted. MEM prerequisites have been added to Group A.

FWP3XX22 Certificate III in Timber and Wood Products Operations

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (National)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UETDRAI004 Treat Poles unit is only for poles in service and has THREE pre-requisite units- All associated with electrical safety. I don't believe it is suitable for our industry or training package. The treat timber unit really should be going into group B timber production. Note this unit covers both poles and timber. 	Thank you for the note. UETDRAI004 has been removed from the qualification.

Summary of Feedback on Draft Units of Competency

Production Supervision – New Unit

FWPTMM4XXX Plan and supervise engineered wood product operations

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (VIC)	Regarding Numeracy/Foundation Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of or creation of graphs and charts? 	Adopted. The suggested words, 'Use of or creation of graphs and charts', have been added to Numeracy.

Production Supervision – Revised Units

FWPCOT4XXX Plan for and supervise timber treatment plant operations

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (VIC)	Regarding the Prerequisite Unit section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it Nil? Would some sort of chemical handling be required e.g. one of the AHCCHM units? 	Thank you for your remark. Yes, the prerequisite Unit section is Nil. Additional consultations confirmed that Copper Chrome Arsenic (CCA) is a restricted chemical regulated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (AVPMA) and can only be received for use by persons holding an Australian Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) issued based on their completion of the Treat Timber unit (SAW3242 or previously SAW3201). These persons do not need the AHC units on storage and transport as the concentrated chemical is delivered directly to the site by the supplier. The treat timber unit adequately covers storage and receipt of CCA without needing the extra AHC information.
	Regarding Unit Sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the unit sector? 	Thank you for pointing up the omission of information. Common Technical (COT) has been used to fill in the unit sector.

Chain of Custody – New Units

General Comments

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Employer (National)	<p>I have had a quick read through the documents. It may be helpful to provide a little more detail in relation to product groups and also chain of custody methods.</p> <p>In relation to CoC methods, it is possible that some sites may operate more than one method for different product groups. It would also be useful to cover the details for percentage-based and credit methods.</p> <p>The product groups are required to be included in certification documentation, and so there needs to be clarity in what product groups are covered by the certificate and the CoC system.</p> <p>Also, there's an increased focus on use of trademarks and logos. It would be worthwhile ensuring that the correct use of trademarks and logos is fully understood, and that internal audits cover this properly</p>	<p>Adopted. A new PC and new PE and KE items have been added to identify product groups covered by the chain of custody certification and to reference trademarks and credit methods.</p>

FWPCOT3XXX Develop knowledge of chain of custody certification requirements for forest and wood products

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (VIC)	<p>Regarding the last item in the Knowledge Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance is mentioned in the Application, element 3 and PE. Should compliance be specifically mentioned in the KE explicitly or is it implicit in this KE point on audits? 	<p>Adopted. Chain of custody compliance requirements have been added to KE.</p>

FWPCOT4XXX Assess requirements of chain of custody certification scheme for forest and wood products

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (VIC)	<p>Regarding the word “compliance” in Performance Evidence:</p>	<p>Adopted. Wording of PE has been amended to read – ‘There must be evidence that the individual has identified the certification requirements for <i>one chain of custody certification scheme applicable to a wood products business in relation to the following</i>’</p>

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wouldn't compliance requirements be one of the implementation requirements? Compliance is not explicit in the PCs. 	

FWPCOT4XXX Conduct internal audit of chain of custody certification for forest and wood products

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (VIC)	Regarding the first item in Knowledge Evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest wording to ensure longevity of the unit (if this ISO is reviewed/renamed). 	Adopted. KE item has been reworded to read – <i>current Australian Standard on internal auditing requirements</i>

Equipment Maintenance – New and Revised Units

General Comments

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Employer (SA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the units. They are very relevant; nothing to add at this stage. 	Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support.
Employer (QLD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The units are relevant; operators and technical staff need to be capable to make the mechanic system safe, i.e., de-energise or bleed, reading the valve diagram. 	Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support.

FWPCOT4XXX Apply principles of pneumatics and hydraulics to analyse potential equipment failures

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Employer (SA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The documents seem precise and very thorough. I have noticed, if I present these documents to my Saw Technicians, they would immediately say, oh they aren't for me, as they are predominantly directed at Sawshop managers, whereas my saw tech team routinely would perform these. We need these to 	Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support. Adopted. The Application has been amended to read: <i>The unit applies to saw technicians and other technical experts who are responsible for the operation of saw shops, production lines and other forestry equipment and are required to have a working understanding of hydraulic and pneumatic principles and contribute to the identification of plant and equipment failures in</i>

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
	<p>present to the saw technicians themselves as a viable and achievable document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also the document may need to reflect these activities are presented around sawing performance and maintenance structured to solve sawing accuracy and optimisation of fibre, which is the end game for any company wanting to upskill their most important resource (the employees). 	<p><i>order to communicate effectively with maintenance and engineering teams.</i></p> <p>Thank you for your feedback. This unit is designed to be applicable to all wood products production lines and forestry equipment, and for this reason, we cannot include information specific to one process or piece of equipment.</p> <p>Sawing optimisation, on the other hand, is covered in the Certificate III in Saw Technology in the units for servicing saw blades and guides. The Certificate III also includes the unit FWPCOT3291 Apply principles of timber and process optimisation in sawmill operations.</p>
RTO (VIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content appears to have covered the critical elements of why Saw Technicians wanted this type of unit included and available to the apprenticeship program 2 years ago. The language is appropriate for the unit intent (identify/distinguish/review/assess) – that being to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve problem solving skills improve communication at a technical level with mechanical and electric trades The descriptions cover both the actual fluid power components as well as the components that activate them Some of the sawmill/sawshop systems relevant to this unit include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bandmill set works that position timber for sawing Set works that move large twin or quad bandmills away and toward each other Metal rolls and tyres that operate horizontally to hold timber during sawing Metal rolls and tyres that operate vertically to hold timber during sawing Sawshop sharpening machines that move grinding heads up and down during a sharpening 	<p>Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support.</p>

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
	<p>process and feed pawls that position saw blade teeth ready for sharpening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I believe the operation and construction each of the above systems and their components is covered in the draft unit with one exception: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we need to be more specific in terminology to identify electrical componentry as separate to mechanical componentry that activates or controls the working of a system? I think in many (even most) problems, cylinders leak, lose pressure, or just physically wear out. Cylinder functioning problems are however caused by control components causing the cylinders to react too slowly, mistime an action, or not work at all, etc I am certainly not fully familiar with the workings or componentry used with sawmill fluid power systems however electronics now plays many important roles in the working of a sawmill. Hydraulics and pneumatics are worked also by: electrical programmable controllers, limit switches, relays, electro-hydraulic servo valves, photo electric cells. 	<p>Adopted. The PCs and KE have been updated to include references to mechanical, electrical, and electronic components.</p>
Employer (QLD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant confirmed the importance of these units 	<p>Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant provided advice for clarifying the application 	<p>Adopted. The application has been amended to read:</p> <p><i>The unit applies to saw technicians and other technical experts who are responsible for the operation of saw shops, production lines and other forestry equipment and are required to have a working understanding of hydraulic and pneumatic principles and contribute to the identification of plant and equipment failures in order to communicate effectively with maintenance and engineering teams.</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant suggested to include electrical components 	<p>Adopted. The PCs and KE have been updated to include references to mechanical, electrical, and electronic components.</p>

FWPCOT3XXX Conduct operator level equipment maintenance in forest and wood products industry

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (National)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unit looks really good. 	Noted. We appreciate your feedback and support.

Grading and Testing – Revised Units

FWPCOT3XXX Grade wood product visually

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (National)	My previous suggestion of a “Grade recycled timber for structural purposes” unit seems to have been omitted.	Thank you. Grading of recycle timber has been included in this unit <i>FWPCOT3XXX Grade wood product visually</i> , which is intended to be broad enough to enable the training course to be tailored to the grading of any type of wood products.

Timber Drying – Revised Units

FWPSAW3XXX Operate timber drying kiln

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (National)	Re-incorporating Dry Hardwood and Dry Softwood into a single Operate Kiln unit completely ignores the different processes required for seasoning softwood and hardwoods and may end up with softwood kiln operators ruining hardwoods.	Thank you for the feedback. This unit has been written so that the training course may be customised for softwood <u>or</u> hardwood timber drying.
	Regarding Performance Criteria 1.4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delete “from log processing process”. In hardwood operations the racks would come from other kilns, steam chamber or drying yard. 	Adopted. Words have been deleted from PC1.4 as suggested.
	Regarding Performance Criteria 2.4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delete the word “steam”. Some conditioning schedules use only water or simply lack of venting. 	Adopted. Words have been deleted from PC2.4 as suggested.

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
	Regarding Reading/Foundation Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add “Use a psychrometric chart to convert temperature and humidity readings to Dry/wet bulb temperatures and EMC” 	Adopted. A new item has been added for Reading/Foundation Skills as suggested.
	Regarding Numeracy/Foundation Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add “oven dry moisture content” 	Adopted. New words have been added for Numeracy/Foundation Skills as suggested.

Engineered Wood Products – New Units

FWPTMM3XXX Develop knowledge of glue laminated timber or cross laminated timber production

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Employer (NSW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant suggested a new line under element 4 about how to read data from testing equipment and get the results, which is an element of the quality process 	<p>Adopted. A new PC has been added as follows:</p> <p><i>4.5 Identify testing procedures and how test data is interpreted and used to determine appropriate follow up actions</i></p> <p>KE have also been updated to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>bond strength and durability tests used in GLT or CLT production process, including how to read test data and use results</i>

Log Yard – Revised Units

FWPCOT3XXX Apply knowledge of log yard operations

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (National)	My previous suggestion around a knowledge based unit for log yard operations, which we discussed over the phone, seems to have been omitted.	Clarified as follows. The advice mentioned is captured in the draft unit <i>FWPCOT3XXX Apply knowledge of log yard operations</i> , which is an elective unit in the draft Certificate III, under Group G.

Gluing – Revised Units

FWPCOT3XXX Assess glues and gluing systems used in production of wood products

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
Employer (QLD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing Glue and gluing systems is typically done at Project and Management level and these are decisions not generally made at the operator or supervisory level, so that module seems to be more for understanding and not deciding on the glue types. As a rule, the decision of glue type is made on glue-ability of each specie and the products final application. 	<p>Adopted. Scope of unit has been adjusted to reflect feedback indicating that unit focus on providing knowledge on glues and gluing systems at a level suited to needs of operators and supervisors. Thus, the unit has been redrafted to focus on types, applications, properties and procedures associated with the use of glues and glue systems. Requirements to test glues and select glues for particular applications have been removed from unit.</p> <p>Title of the unit has been revised to read – <i>Identify glues and gluing systems used in production of wood products</i> – to reflect scope of revised unit.</p> <p>Element structure has been revised to addresses the skills and knowledge needed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Research types, properties, and applications of glues used in production of wood products.</i> <i>2. Research gluing systems used in production of wood products</i> <i>3. Research glue testing procedures used in production of wood products</i> <i>4. Research causes of adhesion failures in production of wood products</i> <p>PE has been amended to remove requirement for testing of glues as this is outside the scope of the revised unit.</p>
Employer (NSW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant confirmed that both operators and supervisors need a basic understanding of adhesives, and that the unit may be written at a much higher level. 	<p>Adopted. Scope of unit has been adjusted to reflect feedback indicating that unit focus on providing knowledge on glues and gluing systems at a level suited to needs of operators and supervisors. Thus, the unit has been redrafted to focus on types, applications, properties and procedures associated with the use of glues and glue systems. Requirements to test glues and select glues for particular applications have been removed from unit.</p> <p>Consequential changes made to unit title, element structure and performance evidence.</p>

Cutting to Dimensions – Revised Units

FWPCOT2XXX Cut timber or engineered wood product to length or dimensions

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (National)	Unit “Cut timber to length or dimensions” appears from the title to cover sawing (dimensions) and docking (length) these functions would be separate job roles in most processing plants. Suggest this be made into separate units of resaw boards and dock timber to length.	Thank you for the feedback. This unit is written so that the training course may be customised according to the job requirements.

Energy Generation – Revised Units

FWPCOT3XXX Conduct heat plant operations

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO (VIC)	<p>Regarding Performance Evidence item “identified and rectified boiler operating faults”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is this rectify or report as in PC 2.2. Should KE specify rectifying boiler operation fault. Seems to cover identification (assuming the boiler is the heat plant). 	Adopted. PE has been modified to read <i>‘identified and rectified or reported heat plant operating faults’</i>