

A change to workplace health and safety - June 2016



The Health and safety law has recently changed and the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSAW Act 2015) is now in place. There are some things you need to know that will affect assessment in Industry Training.

All workplaces have to operate according to this new law. Some companies may already be doing this. Others may be going through changes to ensure they meet the new law.

If you require more information please use the following link:
<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/hswa>

or write to Competenz Quality Assessment Manager via email at:
v.brajkovich@competenz.org.nz

FAQs

Will the change affect how assessment takes place?

Candidates will be assessed in the same way as before with reference to the HSAW Act 2015 and according to their current health and safety training as well as current site policy and procedures. The Competenz Learning and Assessment Guide may have content that talks about the old health and safety legislation; however operational health and safety policy and procedures may already have changed to reflect the HSAW Act 2015.

What information should the candidate use to answer written assessment questions?

The candidate should write their answers from information contained in the learning guide or what is right for the workplace at the time of assessment. Your assessor will accept either answer. Answers should reflect the current operational policy and procedures at the worksite.

How will my practical assessment be affected?

The assessor will be expecting to see you working according to your current sites health and safety policy and procedures.

Is Competenz updating their learning material?

Yes, we will be. There is a plan in place to update material and the unit standards themselves over the next 12 to 18 months. A candidate will not be penalised if answers reflect the changes required to meet the HSAW Act 2015. Legislation changes will not affect the intent of the unit standards.

What changes will the new law have to worksites?

Each company's management/ site supervisors/ health and safety representative will be able to advise on changes to reflect the HSAW Act 2015 in their workplace.

What changes are required to assessment resources that contain references to Health and Safety in the workplace?

Assessment guides and model answers can be updated to reflect the requirements of new legislation and submitted to Competenz for Pre-moderation.

Lower Level Unit standards (Level 1 and 2) will be exempt from being required to be Pre-moderated if only updated to meet the HSAW Act 2015. Both model answers and Assessments will need to be updated in order to meet post-moderation requirements when updated to meet the HSAW Act 2015.