



5<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board  
of New Zealand**

## **COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK REVIEW – UPDATE FOR GRADUATES**

### **BACKGROUND**

The **Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board (CSLB)** is in the process of redesigning the assessment framework for the issue of a certificate of competency to applicants seeking an initial licence to undertake cadastral surveys in New Zealand. This follows the release of the **Standards for Licensing Cadastral Surveyors 2021** (the Standards) which came into effect in August last year. The Standards specify what requirements need to be met by surveyors seeking a licence to undertake cadastral surveys. **Schedule 1 of the Standards** lists the competencies that applicants are to be assessed against which forms the basis of the proposed new assessment framework. **Clause 10 of the Standards** outlines the requirements for the issue of an initial licence for a graduate.

Although the components of the proposed new assessment framework at a conceptual level have been broadly established, the details are currently being developed and have yet to be finalised or consulted on with the wider profession. Therefore, the advice given below is being provided to the best of the Board's knowledge at this time.

The current assessment and examination regime undertaken by **Survey and Spatial NZ (S+SNZ)** remains in place and graduates will be able to continue to participate in this process as they seek to obtain a certificate of competency, and subsequently a cadastral surveying licence, for the first time.

### **COMPONENTS OF THE PROPOSED COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK**

The components of the proposed framework will not be significantly dissimilar to the current framework. At a conceptual level the new framework will be made up of:

- A 4 year tertiary educational qualification from New Zealand or Australia in surveying recognised by the Board, or the equivalent thereof;
- The completion of a minimum of 2 years of post-graduate practical training under the guidance of a licensed cadastral surveyor in New Zealand, including at least 1 year (or such lesser period as the Board may determine) of practical training in cadastral surveys involving the subdivision of land and boundary definition;
- Compilation of a portfolio of post-graduate work experience that aligns with the competencies in Schedule 1 of the Standards;
- A pass in a professional challenge that tests an applicant's competency in real work simulations (which will include cadastral surveying rules and law); and the
- Completion of a professional interview.

It is anticipated that these components of the framework will be completed by an applicant sequentially, for example, the post-graduate work experience needs to be completed before an applicant can sit the professional challenge. Once an applicant has successfully completed all the

steps they will be issued with a Certificate of Competency, which will then enable them to apply for an initial licence from the CSLB.

## **TIMEFRAMES**

Please note the proposed new assessment framework is still under development and the broad components referred to above may change before it is implemented. The proposed framework is also subject to consultation with the wider profession, which is scheduled to occur this year.

It is anticipated that the new framework will be implemented in 2024. Plenty of notice will be given in advance of the transitional period between the two frameworks so that the process is clear, but this cannot occur until the details of the new assessment framework are finalised.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

*Q1: I just graduated, or am looking to start my licensing journey, should I sit the Cadastral Law Exam in June 2023?*

A1: If you have just recently graduated and are commencing your licensing journey then you should focus on obtaining a minimum of 2 years post-graduate work experience aligned with the Competencies specified in Schedule 1 of the Standards. You wouldn't be eligible to complete the proposed competency assessment framework until at least 2025, at which time it is anticipated that the cadastral law exam as we know it will be replaced and it is unlikely to remain a pre-requisite.

If you graduated earlier, and you have at least 10 months post-graduation cadastral experience, then in accordance with the current requirements outlined by S+SNZ on their website ([https://www.surveyspatialnz.org/Category?Action=View&Category\\_id=1058](https://www.surveyspatialnz.org/Category?Action=View&Category_id=1058)) you would be eligible to sit the cadastral law exam this year. Should you obtain a pass, it is envisaged that the transitional provisions in the proposed new assessment framework will enable you to complete your licensing pathway in accordance with the current requirements and recognise your achievement should you need to change to the proposed requirements.

*Q2: I am looking to sit professional interviews in 2023, what do I need to prepare for this? Do I still follow the current Annual Circular?*

A2: Candidates should ensure that their experience is aligned with the competencies outlined in Schedule 1 of the Standards. The requirements outlined by S+SNZ on their website ([https://www.surveyspatialnz.org/Category?Action=View&Category\\_id=177](https://www.surveyspatialnz.org/Category?Action=View&Category_id=177)) remain a good guide for the complexity of projects required.

*Q3: if my Cadastral Law Exam pass was over 5 years ago, and I am looking to undertake professional interviews next year, do I need to re-sit the Cadastral Law Exam again?*

A3: Yes, in accordance with the Standards clause 10(4)(a) you do. However, if you have extenuating circumstances, the period beyond the 5 year requirement is relatively small, and you have been working in cadastral surveying since you passed the exam, you can make an application to the Board for a specific dispensation. There is no guarantee that this will be granted. All applications are considered on a case-by-case basis.

*Q4: I am looking to sit professional interviews next year in 2024, do I need to pass the Cadastral Law Exam before then?*

A4: If you intend to sit the professional examination and interviews next year (2024) a pass in the cadastral law exam remains a pre-requisite using the current assessment framework.

At this time, it is envisaged that 2024 will be a transitional year for the assessment frameworks. Should the proposed new assessment framework be finalised and implemented by then, an option being considered is that a pass in the cadastral law examination would be recognised and contribute to the proposed competency assessment framework.

*Q5: I am looking at going down the licensing journey – are the timeframes and requirements the same under the proposed framework?*

A5: No appreciable changes in the overall timeframes for licensing are proposed, however, the sequencing of the components of the proposed competency assessment framework may be different. Please refer to the components described above before the FAQ section.

Questions regarding the proposed competency framework can be directed in the first instance to the Secretary of the CSLB via [secretary@cslb.org.nz](mailto:secretary@cslb.org.nz)

Graduates should also ensure that they are connected into the communications networks of professional bodies such as **Surveying and Spatial NZ** or the **Institute of Cadastral Surveying** to keep abreast of developments and to participate in the consultation process to come.

*N Faulkner*

Neale Faulkner - Chair  
Cadastral Surveyors Licensing Board of NZ