

Mr Tony Palladino
Executive Officer
NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB
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Dear Tony

Thank you for your email of 9 March 2020 regarding changes to assessment outcomes for students undertaking qualifications covered by the ESI-Transmission, Distribution and Rail (UET) and Electrotechnology (UEE) Training Packages.

Please accept our apologies for the delayed response, as TAFE NSW focuses on introducing a range of proactive measures to limit the impact of COVID-19 and supporting our students in continuing their study. From Monday 30 March 2020, TAFE NSW paused all training and educational delivery and will re-commence delivery from Monday 27 April 2020 to students through connected and blended delivery.

As a Registered Training Organisation, TAFE NSW must meet the regulatory requirements set by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 and the requirements of all training packages on our scope of registration.

I can advise that complying with these requirements is the approach TAFE NSW follows and that there is no other internal policy to which you refer.

TAFE NSW operates in accordance with the standards and the requirements of competency based training where students need to demonstrate they 'hold all of the required skills and knowledge specified in the unit assessment requirements'. TAFE NSW provides students with various opportunities to demonstrate they meet the requirements of a unit, with some requirements achieved through assessment of the technical knowledge they hold, whilst other requirements are demonstrated through the completion of practical skills activities.

TAFE NSW provides a range of further opportunities for students to demonstrate their competency, should they not initially demonstrate that they are able to meet the requirements of a unit. Further support is provided for students who achieve a 60 per cent pass rate in the knowledge assessment, the teacher will either individually or as a class group, provide the required feedback for the students to answer the incorrect questions and reassess the students orally to allow them further opportunity to demonstrate competence.

In accordance with competency based assessment and the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 (clause 3.1), students that have demonstrated competency are issued a transcript and testamur that shows they are competent or not competent. TAFE NSW makes no reference to 100 per cent competency or other grading of students.

To ensure that TAFE NSW meets the standards expected of the NSW public education provider, assessment methodologies are continually reviewed to ensure that competency against all requirements is achieved and that graduates have the knowledge and skills required to be successful in their chosen industry. TAFE NSW continues to evolve its assessment tools, to provide students with a range of opportunities to demonstrate the required competencies, and liaises with both industry and teaching staff in this process.

Engagement with industry groups and local employers is a key part of this process. Earlier this year, TAFE NSW communicated changes in its assessment methodology to electrical apprentices (commencing UEE30811 in Semester 1 2020) and their employers, so that both understood the details and the value of the change in training delivered by TAFE NSW.

TAFE NSW continues to use the teaching and learning resources which were developed to meet the requirements of the current UEE Electrotechnology Training Package. TAFE NSW has been monitoring the progress of the transition to the new UEE Electrotechnology Training Package, which has been delayed. TAFE NSW is very keen to be involved in the process to ensure that as a RTO it meets all the requirements to improve student outcomes and meets the skill needs of employers, industry and other stakeholder groups. Planning is underway for the development of new TAFE NSW teaching and learning resources to be available to meet the requirements of the new Training Package, when the training package is released.

As noted earlier, TAFE NSW as a Registered Training Organisation seeks to meet the regulatory requirements set by ASQA and the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015. TAFE NSW notes your comments for industry preference for graded assessment and suggests those industry bodies and/or employers may wish to make industry representation to the appropriate national committees and agencies to have the current competency based system amended.

If you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Chhavi Shaw, R/Head of SkillsPoint Infrastructure, Energy and Construction, by telephone on 0428 405 852 or email at chhavi.shaw2@tafensw.edu.au

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Lucy Arundell
Chief Education and Training Officer
TAFE NSW

14 April 2020