

**Unit Standard Interpretations 2021/2022/2023**  
Version 1



Domain	Unit Standard	Credits	Version	Unit Standard Title	Date of Interpretation Suggested	Element/Outcome, ER/PC and/or Range Statement	Issue	Muka Tangata Interpretation of the Element/Outcome, ER/PC and/or Range Statement Unit Standard Review	Unit Standard Review Date (NZQA)	Status	Analyst
Pest Control	32386	8	1	Navigate a transect line in good visibility and poor visibility using a map and GPS for pest control operations	Nov-21	PC 1.1 and Outcome 2	Mentions NZMS 260 maps in the Guidance. These maps ended production in 2009 and are now superseded by NZTopo50.	Use NZTopo50 maps.	31-Dec-25		
Animal Care	31500	5	2	Describe emergency care of injured animal patients	Dec-21	Guidance Information, point 3 - For the purposes of assessment	This version of the unit standard includes all theory-based Outcomes and Performance Criteria, yet the first bullet point refers to the 'practical components' of the standard.	First bullet-point could be removed. Statement should state "evidence for the components of this unit standard must be supplied from a workplace or organisation, using workplace examples". E.g. Remove the word 'practical'.	31-Dec-26		
Forest Foundation Skills	17769	5	6	Demonstrate knowledge of general health, safety, and environmental requirements in forestry	Dec-21	PC 3.3 and Outcome 3	Range statement is not achievable as the compulsory inclusion of setting off a PLB to achieve the unit is not workable	3.3 Use of communications technology during an emergency is demonstrated in accordance with worksite procedures. Range may include but is not limited to – radio, mobile phone, emergency personal locator beacon.  Evidence of 2 is required.	31-Dec-24		
Tree Felling	1270	12	9	Salvage windthrown trees	Dec-21	Prerequisites	Unit standard 28560 Fell trees in a commercial forest harvesting operation level 3, version 2 does not cover skills & knowledge required by the user for it to be used as a prerequisite to unit standard 1270.	Prerequisite 28561 Plan and fell trees using advanced techniques in a commercial forest harvesting operation Level 4, version 2	31-Dec-24		
Production Horticulture	829	5	5	Demonstrate knowledge of plant nomenclature	22/03/2022	Guidance Information	Incorrect website provided in the guidance information. The link provides info about Berlin botanical gardens	<a href="https://www.bgbm.org/iapt/nomenclature/cod/e/SaintLouis/0000St.Luistitle.htm">Update the link to https://www.bgbm.org/iapt/nomenclature/cod/e/SaintLouis/0000St.Luistitle.htm</a>		US is currently in review and is with NZQA. updated version should have current link. remove this once the new version is published on NZQA framework	Sarah
Arboriculture	2775	12	9	Prune semi mature and mature amenity trees in arboriculture situations	28/06/2022	Outcome 2 and 3	Range statement in outcome 2 and 3 ( <b>evidence of at least 4 is required</b> ) needs clarification as this is causing confusion for resource developers.	The Range statements should be read as: <b>evidence of at least four pruning types for a mix of semi mature and mature amenity trees is required.</b>	Jan-26		
Horticulture	3008	5	6	Demonstrate knowledge of plant classification in horticulture	20/07/2022	Outcome 1 - range statements	<b>Remove Scrophulariaceae:</b> this family no longer contains the native genus Hebe (which got moved to Plantaginaceae), so no longer relevant to have Scrophulariaceae listed. Instead, Plantaginaceae could replace it. <b>Taxodiaceae</b> - no longer a recognised family.	Remove Scrophulariaceae and Taxadiaceae from range statement. Include Plantaginaceae, Blechnaceae, Dryopteridaceae.	Feb-26		
Dairy	23785	8	2	Describe factors that affect milk quality, milk testing, milk cooling, and interpret milk tanker information	25/07/2022	Explanatory notes	Link provided in the US for Dairy Code of Practice is out of date	<a href="https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50182/direct">Update the link to https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/50182/direct</a>	Feb-26		
Horticulture	24648	7	2	Identify the physical characteristics, and range of, plants used in amenity horticulture	9/07/2022	Outcome 2	Plant conventions are very prescriptive and should be used correctly. We agree that the intent of the unit standard is that the learner can identify plants using the plant characteristics.	<a href="https://www.bgbm.org/iapt/nomenclature/cod/e/SaintLouis/0000St.Luistitle.htm">Update the link to https://www.bgbm.org/iapt/nomenclature/cod/e/SaintLouis/0000St.Luistitle.htm</a>		Version 2 has been replaced by version 3. Version 2 expires 2024	Lisa & Maree
Horticulture	21043	20	2	Describe the principles of organic horticultural production	25/08/2022	Guidance Information	Incorrect website links provided in the guidance information.	<a href="https://www.biogro.co.nz/biogro-organic-standards">The Bio Gro link should be https://www.biogro.co.nz/biogro-organic-standards</a> <a href="https://soilandhealth.org.nz/">The Soil &amp; Health Association link should be https://soilandhealth.org.nz/</a>	N/A		Lisa & Greg

Seafood	32938	15	1	Demonstrate knowledge of the modular harvesting system trawl gear operations	14/11/2022	Range Statements and Performance Criteria	PC 1.2 range statement required clarification, issues with PC 2.2, 2.3 and 2.5	PC 1.2 Range - evidence of <i>either</i> two inshore or two deep water gear configurations is required. PC 2.2 - Prepare the MHS trawl gear for shooting ( <i>in both the retention and normal configuration</i> - has been removed) PC 2.3 has been removed PC 2.5 range - <i>lay or run of the net, tension, knots</i> - has been removed	31-Dec-26		Mata
Aquaculture	25307	5	2	Assess size distribution of fin fish and interpret data for an aquaculture facility	14/12/2022	Range Statement	Typo - should be pre-assessment, not re-assessment	PC 2.2 - identify and carry out sampling methodology for the assessment Range: includes but is not limited to - preparing fish <b>pre-assessment</b> , crowding, environmental monitoring, sample size in relation to population size, representative sampling, post-assessment recovery and monitoring	31/12/2026		Maree
Wine Production	29240	6	1	Demonstrate knowledge of winemaking processes and procedures	14/12/2022	Range Statement	GMP is not used in New Zealand and needs to be replaced with WSMP	PC 2.1 - Standard industry quality assurance and control procedures are outlined Range: standard operating procedures, equipment cleaning, refrigeration, quality control points, documentation and records, <b>WSMP</b> , SWNZ	31/12/2019		Greg
Horticulture	32900	5	1	Describe frosts, and frost protection methods for a horticulture operation	14/12/2022	Range Statement	1.2 Relative humidity and dewpoint in the range should be removed and not apply to advection frosts.	PC 1.2 - Describe climatic and landform conditions in terms of causing advection frosts Range: conditions include but are not limited to - aspect, airflow and surrounding land features	31/12/2026		Greg
Horticulture	22194	5	3	Describe plant anatomy and morphology and how plants adapt to different environments	14/12/2022	Range Statement	2.3 The range conditions should be sub-tropical and semi-arid to reflect New Zealand growing conditions.	2.3 - Describe the distribution of vegetation in New Zealand in terms of plant growth in different climatic and environmental conditions Range: conditions include but are not limited to - temperate, <b>sub-tropical, semi-arid, saline</b>	31/12/2027		Greg
Animal Care	31504	3	2	Describe and apply the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to a work role in an animal facility	26/01/2023	Outcome 2	Not clear if Outcome 2 Apply the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to a work role in an animal facility, needed to be a practical task	Ultimately it is practical, so they would need to be in a work role to apply the AWA, so making sure animals have food, water etc in their day to day dealings with the animals in the animal facility. This would then need to be signed off in some manner by the facility.	31/12/2026		Leela
Animal Care	31501	5	3	Describe cat feeding, health, and housing, and carry out routine health procedures	22/02/2023	PC 3.3	Requires students to carry out routine health procedures on cats. These procedures must include dosing cats with oral medications in tablet and liquid form and applying topical medication to at least the ears and eyes. There are not always suitable animals (or sufficient animals) in need of medications or the range of medications required to meet the requirements of ER 3.3. The Animal Welfare Act 1999 states: 1.reduce the number of animals used for teaching to the minimum necessary, 2.refine techniques used in teaching so that the harm caused to animals is minimised and benefits are maximised, and 3.replace animals as subjects in teaching by substituting with non-sentient or non-living alternatives or imparting the information in another way.	A live cat/dog is not required to be used for assessment of routine health procedures. Assessment may be carried out using a model in a simulated situation	31/12/2026		Adrienne

Animal Care	31502	5	3	Describe dog feeding, health, and housing, and carry out routine health procedures	22/02/2023	PC 3.3	Requires students to carry out routine health procedures on dogs. These procedures must include dosing dogs with oral medications in tablet and liquid form and applying topical medication to at least the ears and eyes. There are not always suitable animals (or sufficient animals) in need of medications or the range of medications required to meet the requirements of ER 3.3. The Animal Welfare Act 1999 states: 1.reduce the number of animals used for teaching to the minimum necessary, 2.refine techniques used in teaching so that the harm caused to animals is minimised and benefits are maximised, and 3.replace animals as subjects in teaching by substituting with non-sentient or non-living alternatives or imparting the information in another way.	A live cat/dog is not required to be used for assessment of routine health procedures. Assessment may be carried out using a model in a simulated situation	31/12/2026		Adrienne
Aquaculture	16336	10	5	Describe and carry out repair and maintenance on a mussel (kutai, kuku) farm	22/02/2023 & 27/04/2023	Purpose Statement PC 1.3 Outcome 2 Range Outcome 4 Title PC 4.3	Some issues with wording	Purpose Statement - amend to align with the change to Outcome 4. Amend wording to 'clean and then repair or replace a backbone and/or warp' PC 1.3 - amend range statement to: Range - types of rope <b>may</b> include but are not limited to - standard rope, culture rope, spat catching rope, lashings. Outcome 2 Range - change from 'includes' to ' <b>may include</b> ' and require evidence of four Outcome 4 Title - change from 'Clean, repair, and replace backbones and warps' to 'Clean <b>and then</b> repair <b>or</b> replace a backbone and/or warp' PC 4.3 Remove the PC completely. Feedback provided - making an attachment at the bridle need not be mentioned as it is inherent/a given in the process of replacing a backbone and/or warp. It is only necessary in the case of a complete backbone and/or warp replacement but not necessary in the case of a backbone repair.	31/12/2026		Marie
Equine Health	1654	8	7	Deal with an emergency situation, assist veterinarian, and provide ongoing care for a horse	22/02/2023	Outcome 1 Title PC 1.2 PC 1.3 PC 3.2	Some issues with wording	Outcome 1 Title - change from 'Describe the handling of horses in an equine emergency. Range: equine injury, equine illness' to 'Describe actions to take in an equine emergency' and remove the range. PC 1.2 - range. 'emergency situations <b>may</b> include but are not limited to - open wound, closed wound, fracture, horse caught in wire, cast horse, colic, dystocia; <b>evidence of four is required</b> ' PC 1.3 - remove 'training' from the range PC 3.2 - amend range to 'may include but is not limited to - powders, paste, inflammatory controls, bandaging; evidence of <b>three</b> is required'	N/A		Leela
Pest Control	29336	3	2	Describe impacts of rural pest animals on the environment, and benefits of rural pest animal control operations	22/02/2023	Outcome 2 Range	It is repetitive that societal, welfare, economic and environmental benefits of pest removal are going to overlap across the pest groups. The range could be removed, it would change the emphasis of the question from an answer that is species specific to a more general summary or could be changed to may include with a maybe a requirement to mention two...	Outcome 2 Range - change from 'possum, rabbit, one predator, one avian pest' to 'may include possum, rabbit, one predator, one avian pest; evidence of 2 is required'	31/12/2025		Leela
Aquaculture	23646	15	3	Repair and maintain equipment and structures for New Zealand land-based aquaculture	6/04/2023	Outcome 1 Range Outcome 2 Range Outcome 3 Range PC 3.1 & 3.2 Outcome 4 Range	Issue with wording	Range statement for Outcome 1-4 needs to be amended to: Range: Freshwater or salt water. Evidence of one is required. ( <b>of each</b> has been removed) PC 3.1 & 3.2 - change range to: Range: <b>may</b> include but is not limited to...	31/12/2026		Mata

Aquaculture	23647	15	3	Repair and maintain equipment and structures for New Zealand sea-based aquaculture	6/04/2023	Outcome 1 Range Outcome 2 Range Outcome 3 Range PC 3.1 & 3.2 Outcome 4 Range	Issue with wording	Range statement for Outcome 1-4 needs to be amended to: Range: shellfish or fin fish. Evidence of one is required. (of each has been removed) PC 3.1 & 3.2 - change range to: Range: <b>may</b> include but is not limited to...	31/12/2026		Mata
Aquaculture	24670	5	2	Describe the purpose, benefits, principles and approaches of selective breeding in an aquaculture species	6/04/2023	Range statement for PC 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2	Range is too restrictive. Change from 'include' to 'may include'	For all 4 ranges, change to: Range: <b>may</b> include but is not limited to - .... <b>Evidence of 3 is required</b> Spelling mistake on PC 2.1 - should be 'breeding <b>values</b> ', not breeding valves'.	31/12/2026		Lizzie
Aquaculture	19774	5	3	Describe the transfer of an aquaculture species from one site to another	27/04/2023	Guidance Information	Lack of clarity of what 'site' means in this context	Add a definition of site to the Guidance Information Under GI 2 Definition <i>Site</i> refers to the licenced facility where the stock is kept. Transfer between sites may or may not include transfer between management areas and/or biosecurity management zones	31/12/2026		Lizzie
Aquaculture	16333	15	5	Describe and carry out the hauling process, and operate the davit and the declumper on a mussel (kutai, kuku) vessel	27/04/2023	Range statement for PC 2.3 & 3.3	SME and sector feedback is that it may be hard for a Learner to meet this criteria as the repairs are commonly carried out by someone more senior and may not be required often enough to fit into a reasonable timeframe for the Assessment.	2.3 Carry out any minor repairs and adjustments. Change range to: Range: <b>may</b> include but is not limited to - replacing shackles, ropes, pulleys, hooks, hydraulic hoses. Types of rope <b>may</b> include but are not limited to - standard rope, culture rope, spat catching rope, lashings. <b>Evidence of two is required.</b> 3.3 Carry out any minor repairs and adjustments Range: <b>may</b> include but is not limited to - pulleys	31/12/2026		Lizzie
Aquaculture	16339	10	5	Describe, harvest, handle, bag, and transport shellfish products to maintain product quality	27/04/2023	Range statement for PC 3.3	Feedback from provider - Temperature control doesn't really fit as there is no real control of the temperature of the mussels on the harvest vessel apart from giving them some shade by covering them, refrigeration is only in the factory or in the transport truck.	PC 3.3 Follow procedures to prevent physical damage and spoilage of product during transportation Change range to: Minimise time spent out of the water, reduce exposure to heat from the sun, careful handling (remove: temperature control)	31/12/2026		Lizzie
Aquaculture	5340	5	6	Operate and perform routine maintenance on load-shifting equipment used in oyster (tio) farming	9/05/2023	Range statement for PC 3.1	Range statement is too restrictive as all load-shifting equipment is required.	PC 3.1 Carry-out routine maintenance Change range statement to: Range: routine maintenance may include but is not limited to; greasing, rust prevention, tyre pressures, maintaining hydraulic fluid level, brake fluid level, oil level. Evidence of routine maintenance on three types of load-shifting equipment is required. This may include but is not limited to; chain-block and gantry, hydraulic lifts, tractor with hydraulic lift, pallet jack, forklift	31/12/2026		Lizzie
Landscape	22199	15	3	Prepare for construction of a landscape design from drawings	24/05/2023	Outcome 2 Range	The range in outcome 2 (client's neighbours, local authorities, contractors, site service providers) is a barrier to completion as Learners may not need to contact all four parties listed depending on the job they are working on (may be a small job that does not require services to be contacted).	Outcome 2 Establish liaison with parties affected by planned work Range: <b>may include</b> client's neighbours, local authorities, contractors, site service providers	31/12/2026		Lizzie
Production Horticulture	21045	6	2	Describe compost making, and make compost in organic horticulture	19/06/2023	Guidance Information	Incorrect website links provided in the guidance information.	The BIO-GRO link should be <a href="http://www.biogro.co.nz">www.biogro.co.nz</a> AgriQuality should beASUREQuality	N/A		Lisa
Agricultural Vehicles and Machinery	27604	4	2	Operate a tractor with an attached implement on rolling terrain under limited supervision	21/06/2023	PC 1.1	Error with wording	PC 1.1 "Identify hazards in operating a <b>quad bike</b> and describe..." should be "Identify hazards in operating a <b>tractor</b> and describe..."	N/A		Lizzie
Aquaculture	5337	5	5	De-clump, cull and grade oysters (tio) from an oyster (tio) farm	15/08/2023	PC 3.2	Concern that student would not be able to use Māori disposal methods as they would need to comply with the SOP's of the operation.	Having knowledge of the cultural considerations would be sufficient to meet the PC	N/A		Stephen
Arboriculture	32382	5	1	Demonstrate knowledge of tree biology and impacts of arboriculture maintenance activities on tree biology	15/08/2023	PC 1.3	Don't know what "unit roots" are, and don't think it makes sense to have "tree elements" as an item in the range. The roots, stems, leaves, and fruit are tree elements.	PC 1.3 Describe tree morphological structure adaptations in terms of the changes which take place in tree elements during growth <b>Range: roots, stems, leaves, fruit</b>	31/12/2025		Pip

Arboriculture	32382	5	1	Demonstrate knowledge of tree biology and impacts of arboriculture maintenance activities on tree biology	15/08/2023	PC 1.4 and 1.5	Error with wording. Changing 'physiology' to 'morphology'	PC 1.4 Describe the impacts of arboriculture tree maintenance activities on tree anatomy and <b>morphology</b> PC 1.5 Describe the importance of timing of arboriculture tree maintenance activities to minimise negative impacts on tree anatomy and <b>morphology</b>	31/12/2025		Pip
Arboriculture	32382	5	1	Demonstrate knowledge of tree biology and impacts of arboriculture maintenance activities on tree biology	15/08/2023	Outcome 2	Error with wording	<b>Outcome 2</b> <b>Describe</b> tree growth processes and life cycles, and the impacts of tree maintenance activities	31/12/2025		Pip
Amenity Horticulture	24648	10	3	Describe the physical characteristics, and range of, woody stemmed plants and their use	3/10/2023	PC 2.1	Error with wording	PC 2.1 Plant specimens must show sufficient features to confirm their identify <b>Range:</b> includes but is not limited to - growth habit and shape, bark, buds, foliage colour, shape and arrangement, flowers or flower parts or other reproductive features; features <b>may</b> include but are not limited to - seeds, spores, pollen, cones or other fruits	31/12/2026		Pip
Arboriculture	25402	10	2	Demonstrate advanced tree climbing for arborists, and undertake a simulated aerial rescue	21/08/2023	Outcome 3 PC 3.1 & 3.2 Outcome 4 Outcome 5 PC 5.2	Definitions need updated Replace 'anchor and rope point' with 'base anchor and canopy anchor' and 'static/single' with 'stationary'.	Outcome 3 Use the <b>stationary</b> rope ascending system to ascend safely to at least 15 metres and descend safely to the ground PC 3.1 Use the <b>stationary</b> rope ascending system to ascend to 15 metres safely PC 3.2 Use the <b>stationary</b> rope ascending system to descend to the ground in a controlled and smooth manner Outcome 4 Undertake an aerial rescue in a simulated arboriculture situation, where the casualty is on a <b>stationary</b> rope ascending system Outcome 5 Describe and use work positioning <b>stationary</b> rope techniques (SRT) to ascend a tree PC 5.2 Identify and describe <b>base anchor and canopy anchor</b> in terms of their limitations PC 5.3 Use <b>stationary</b> rope technique for work positioning to 10 metres PC 5.4 Describe <b>stationary</b> rope technique in terms of the advantages for ascending a tree	31/12/2026		Pip
Aquaculture Diving	21344	10	3	Demonstrate knowledge of health and safety legislation and the application of best practice to aquaculture diving	22/11/2023	Range Statement Legislation	Incorrectly references OSH when outcomes relate to New Zealand Aquaculture Industry Diving Good Practice Guidelines Version 2, 2018. Available from the Aquaculture New Zealand website – <a href="http://www.aquaculture.org.nz">www.aquaculture.org.nz</a> . QA and Qualifications team believe that statement should remain in the guidance information as a reference point	Legislation, regulations and/or industry standards relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to the: - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015; Working safely in the Occupational Diving, Snorkelling, and Free-diving Industries - a Guide for PCBUs - April 2020; available at <a href="https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/">https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/</a> and any subsequent amendments.	31/12/2026		Mata
Aquaculture Diving	21344	10	3	Demonstrate knowledge of health and safety legislation and the application of best practice to aquaculture diving	22/11/2023	Range statement reference	Incorrectly references OSH when outcomes relate to New Zealand Aquaculture Industry Diving Good Practice Guidelines Version 2, 2018. Available from the Aquaculture New Zealand website – <a href="http://www.aquaculture.org.nz">www.aquaculture.org.nz</a> .	Reference to be changed too New Zealand Aquaculture Industry Diving Good Practice Guidelines Version 2, 2018. Available from the Aquaculture New Zealand website – <a href="http://www.aquaculture.org.nz">www.aquaculture.org.nz</a> .	31/12/2026		Mata
Equine Training	33261	15	1	Implement and monitor a plan for the ongoing health and preventative health requirements for horses in training	20/12/2023	Guidance Information	Guidance Information 3 states the the implementation and monitoring of the health and preventative health plan must be for a period of at least six months when in a thoroughbred racing context, racehorses will not be in work for 6 months.	Change to: Implementation and monitoring of the health and preventative health plan must be for a period of at <b>least three months</b> for a minimum of four horses	31/12/2028		Pip
Landscape	31074	3	2	Select and plant plants, and apply mulches, in landscape work	13/02/2024	Outcome 1 Range Statement	Clarification of wording required	Outcome 1 Select and plant plants, and apply mulches, in landscape work Range: May include - trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, climbing plants; evidence of two <b>different types of</b> plants is required	31/12/2027		Pip
Landscape	31076	3	8	Operate and maintain power tools and small machinery used in landscape work	7/03/2024	Guidance Information 2	Small machinery can be operated by direct current or battery (and is now common) so request that this is added to the definition	Small machinery operated by petrol, two stroke or four stroke engines, compressors or <b>direct power current or battery</b>	31/12/2027		