

SKILL SETS PROJECT FOR THE COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION OF SKILL SETS IN TRAINING PACKAGES

Progress Report Two

ForestWorks Industry Skills Council
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Improving industry's capacity to develop and maintain a skilled workforce

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Executive Summary

This report summarises what has occurred in Stage 2 of the Skill Sets Project – Communication and Promotion - within the Forest and Forest Products Training Package FPI05.

Stage 2 as outlined in Schedule 1 requires ForestWorks to:

- ◆ Develop written material, hard copy as fact sheets to support each sector
- ◆ Meet with and promote the Skill Sets to RTOs
- ◆ Follow and comply with the Training Package Development Handbook.

Up to 31st March 2009 ForestWorks has completed the following Stage 2 work:

- ◆ Met with and promoted the Skill Sets to RTOs
- ◆ Followed and complied with the Training Package Development Handbook.

Introduction

In June 2008 ForestWorks Industry Skills Council signed an agreement with Department of Education, Employment and Workplace relations (DEEWR) to identify, develop, communicate and promote Skill Sets in the Forest and Forest Products Training Package FPI05.

This agreement was as a result of the decision by the National Quality Council (NQC) in June 2006 when the acknowledgement of Skill Sets was approved and COAG requirements were noted to include skills clusters within national Training Packages.

ForestWorks Industry Skills Council undertook the *Skill Sets Project for the Communication and Promotion of Skill Sets in Training Packages* and is guided by the key principles for Training Package Development and Endorsement:

- Open and inclusive industry-driven maintenance, validation and endorsement of Training Packages
- Strong and clear stakeholder roles with critical points of intervention and consultation
- Continuous improvement with full Training Package reviews required
- Highly responsive process capable of meeting industry's needs and priorities for new skills
- Industry Skills Councils' responsibility and accountability for the quality and relevance of Training packages.

Along with the 6 sectors of the forest, wood and timber products, ForestWorks Industry Skills Council supports the inclusion of Skill Sets in Training Packages and the formal recognition given to these skill clusters that meet skill, regulatory or licensing needs of industry.

As ForestWorks did not commence operating as an Industry Skills Council until April 2008, work did not formally commence on Stage 1 of the project until October 2008.

Progress Report 2

Sawmilling and Processing Sector

Skill Set – timber drying

A priority for ForestWorks was to establish Sector Advisory Groups early in 2009 to provide ongoing advice on the development of the identified Skill Sets, Training Package issues and the development of resources to support the implementation of the Training Package. This has turned out to be a very time consuming process.

A meeting was organised for mid March to discuss the timber drying skill set, however industry contacts from interstate were unable to attend the meeting mainly due to organisational decisions to curb travel due to the global financial pressures.

Industry contacts who were involved therefore agreed via a teleconference and email correspondence to propose the following 4 skill sets to industry:

Skill Set 1

XXX Start up and shutdown a steam boiler

XXX Operate, monitor and store steam boiler

FPISAW3206A Dry softwood

Skill Set 2

XXX Start up and shutdown a steam boiler

XXX Operate, monitor and store boiler

FPISAW3205A Dry hardwood

Skill Set 3

XXX Start up and shutdown a heat plant

XXX Operate, monitor and store heat plant

FPISAW3206A Dry softwood

Skill Set 4

XXX Start up and shutdown a heat plant

XXX Operate, monitor and store heat plant

FPISAW3205A Dry hardwood

These four skill sets are currently in development and will be posted as drafts on the ForestWorks website for feedback by 8th April. Industry, RTOs and ITABs will at that time be emailed the draft skill sets and feedback requested. This request for feedback will be accompanied by the skill set brochure as developed in Stage 1.

Skill Set – Wood processing technology and computerisation

This skill set will not be developed under this project.

Timber Manufactured Products Sector

Skill Set – Frame and truss

- licensing for installation in the frame and truss industry and external industries
- estimation, detailing and design skills required in the frame and truss industry

Work has not commenced on this skill set, as industry led and driven frame and truss discussions have commenced in the last month. These discussions have included industry pathways and whether the current Training Package qualifications are meeting the needs of the industry and highlight that skill sets are not at this time a priority for the industry. They will however be considered as part of any review of this sector that may occur in the near future.

Harvesting and Haulage Sector

Skill Set – Mechanical harvesting

It is proposed that the frame and truss skill set be replaced by a skill set for the Harvesting and Haulage sector. This skill set is in line with an industry need for mobile equipment operators, in particular mechanical harvester operators. Unlike other sectors where the emphasis is on training once in work, for this sector and in this area, new entrants are generally required to undertake compulsory training and assessment and gain a license to operate prior to being able to work or within a short time of being employed.

A skill set would meet a licensing need and be in place ready for the planned 2010 harvesting program in the Green Triangle.

Timber Merchandising Sector

Skill Set – Customer care, marketing and selling

Skill sets will not be developed for this sector at this time.

Progress Report 2 requested information on the following:

Details of the written material, hard copy as fact sheets to support each sector.

Written resources to support timber drying and the mechanical harvesting skill sets are in the planning stage and be ready by the end of Stage 3 - 30th June 2009. They will be an integral part of the communication and promotion phase of the project.

Details of meeting and promoting skill sets with RTOs

The timber drying and the mechanical harvesting skill sets have been and will continue to be promoted to RTOs via the ITAB provider networks, via direct email, website promotion and at meetings wherever there is an RTO presence. Skill Sets is an agenda item at the July 2009 Conference of Australian Timber Trainers Association (ATTA) and ForestWorks.

To date skill sets have been promoted on the ForestWorks website and brochures have been discussed and distributed at industry meetings including:

- ForestWorks Skills and Employment Council
- Victorian and NSW ITAB Meetings
- National ITAB Meeting
- Victorian Providers Network Meeting.

Future project activities

Future project activities will focus on:

- The completion of both skill sets
- Consultation and promotion of the skill sets via email, website, ForestWorks Skills Update newsletter and face-to-face information sessions
- Finalising resources (new or customised) to support the skill sets.