

Exemption to the Standards for Training Packages – MEM Release 2.0

Skills Ministers have agreed to a limited exemption to the 2012 Standards for Training Packages (the Standards), to allow for workplace-based pathways (underpinned by an employment or training contract) to be required for the delivery of specified qualifications in Release 2.0 of the MEM Manufacturing and Engineering Training Package. Under this exemption, States and Territories retain their responsibility for determining and regulating training pathways and will implement this requirement in line with local funding and regulatory frameworks.

This decision reflects the critical importance of meeting certain workforce development needs of industry, as well as the exceptional circumstances associated with this training package, including the significant time that has elapsed since this training package was last updated and the need to transition the MEM05 Training Package to the 2012 Standards.

The exemption is in relation to Section 3.6.1 of the Training Package Products Policy, which states that:

“Information on qualification pathways, such as Australian Apprenticeships and VET delivered to secondary students, must be provided in the Companion Volume Implementation Guide. This information is advisory and must not be used to prohibit particular training pathways for the qualification.”

The exemption to the above requirement is only applicable to Certificate III Manufacturing and Engineering qualifications contained in Release 2.0 of the Manufacturing and Engineering Training Package:

- MEM30119 – Certificate III in Engineering – Production Systems
- MEM30219 – Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade
- MEM30319 – Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade
- MEM30619 – Certificate III in Jewellery Manufacture
- MEM30719 – Certificate III in Marine Craft Construction
- MEM30819 – Certificate III in Locksmithing
- MEM30919 – Certificate III in Boating Services
- MEM31019 – Certificate III in Watch and Clock Service and Repair
- MEM31119 – Certificate III in Engineering – Composites Trade
- MEM31219 – Certificate III in Engineering – Industrial Electrician
- MEM31319 – Certificate III in Refrigeration and Air conditioning
- MEM31419 – Certificate III in Engineering – Fixed and Mobile Plant Mechanic
- MEM31519 – Certificate III in Engineering – Toolmaking Trade
- MEM31719 – Certificate III in Engineering – Casting and Moulding Trade.

The requirement that qualifications be undertaken through a workplace-based pathway can only be stipulated at the qualification level, not the unit or skill set level, including skill sets required to complete an approved trade skills recognition process.

The requirement to undertake these qualifications via workplace-based pathways does not apply where a person has already undertaken a related trade Certificate III via an apprenticeship or via recognition of prior learning, or to other students and skilled migrants who have successfully undergone an approved trade skills recognition assessment.

The exemption to the Standards is made on condition that regulators agree to a further extension to the MEM Training Package’s transition period until December 2022. The exemption will then be reviewed within 12 months (i.e. by December 2023), to ensure it continues to reflect the requirements of industry, students and training providers.

This exemption to the Standards does not and will not apply to any other training packages or qualifications, including other Manufacturing and Engineering qualifications outside of MEM Release 2.0.