

NZOIA Climbing Wall Instructor Qualifications

Many wall climbing facilities are getting in touch with NZOIA in response to the recent letter sent by the Department of Labour. It is our intention to hold a meeting with wall operators in Wellington to discuss this situation and provide some clarity and information regarding qualifications and future developments in this area. I will be inviting you to this meeting very soon. In the meantime the current situation and available qualifications is explained below:

NZOIA Wall Climbing Qualification

To date NZOIA has provided a Wall Climbing qualification specific to indoor facilities. This qualification has been for top rope climbing with the option of an endorsement for lead climbing.

This qualification is being phased out and will not be available beyond 2010. I will refer to it as the 'old' wall climbing qualification.

New Qualifications with Skills Active

NZOIA is changing its qualifications both to meet sector needs and to align with Skills Active and the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Our aims are:

- To remove confusion about qualifications by developing a single set of national qualifications.
- To provide a three tier qualifications hierarchy in each discipline: Leader, Instructor Level 1, Senior Instructor Level 2.
- To change the structure of qualifications to remove various barriers. This will enable some workplace (in-house) assessment to occur; approved assessment centres to become established; and for appropriately accredited training providers and tertiary institutes to include our qualifications within their courses.

Rock Climbing Qualifications

Rock climbing is now provided with a three tier hierarchy as follows:

1. Rock Climbing Leader and also Abseil Leader
2. Instructor Rock 1
3. Instructor Rock 2

Rock Climbing Leader is the replacement for Wall Climbing and is available NOW. The lead climbing endorsement can still be added to it but has been modified slightly.

In future Instructor Rock 1 will also have a lead climbing endorsement, limited to bolted climbs, and more specific to the outdoor environment and the more complex transitions at the top of climbs.

Climbing walls wishing to qualify their staff thus have two pathways currently available:

1. Old Wall Climbing (with or without lead endorsement).
2. New Rock Climbing Leader (with or without lead endorsement)
3. Current Rock 1

Things to consider:

- All qualifications require annual revalidation and attendance at a refresher workshop every three years.
- People who gain the old Wall Climbing qualification prior to 31 December 2010 will be revalidated in future against the new Rock Climbing Leader and will need to meet that standard at the three year refresher workshop.
- The shift to the new system will allow walls with appropriately qualified staff to conduct internal assessment thus greatly reducing cost and other assessment barriers.

Our recommendation

Wall operators adopt the new qualifications and begin the process of increasing workplace capability so as to take advantage of internal assessment opportunities in future.

Assessment costs:

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| Old Wall Climbing | 1 day | \$250 |
| Old wall Climbing plus Lead Endorsement | 2 days | \$425 |
| Rock Climbing Leader | 2 days | \$470 |
| Rock Climbing Leader plus Lead Endorsement | 2 days | \$470 |

Note: Assessments run on a min 3:1, max 4:1 candidate to assessor ratio and all candidates must be assessed for the same thing i.e. we can't mix and match people who want to be lead assessed with people who don't within a given candidate / assessor group.

Syllabi can be downloaded from the NZOIA website www.nzoia.org.nz

To arrange an assessment please contact Ben Dorrington our Training and Assessment Coordinator on nzoia@skillsactive.org.nz or 04 9164441

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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