

# REGISTERED NATIONAL STANDARD

## UNIT OF COMPETENCY



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| <b>Title:</b>                               | <b>Apply plaster and render to straight and curved surfaces</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                 |                     |                   |   |
| <b>TQF Level:</b>                           | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Credits:</b> | 5                   | <b>Version:</b>   | 1 |
| <b>National standard code:</b>              | NS164-04                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                 |                     |                   |   |
| <b>Associated qualification (and code):</b> | <div>1. National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 4<br/>QR-04-NQ-028-02-1005-26-01</div> <div>2. National Certificate in Wall and Floor Tiling Level 4<br/>QR-04-NQ-028-04-1005-26-01</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                 |                     |                   |   |
| <b>Approval date:</b>                       | 10 September 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 | <b>Review date:</b> | 10 September 2031 |   |
| <b>Purpose:</b>                             | <p>This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to apply plaster and render coats to straight, curved, and irregular surfaces in plastering work. This includes preparing background surfaces, fabricating templates, fixing beads, applying floating and rendering coats, finishing surfaces to specified tolerances, and completing clean-up activities.</p> <p>The unit reflects the work of a skilled plasterer who plans and completes tasks independently in accordance with workplace procedures, and regulatory requirements.</p> <p>This unit supports bricklayers who are expected to take responsibility for assigned plastering finishes to straight, curved, and complex surfaces tasks and complete work without close supervision while meeting Tonga National Building Code requirements.</p> <p>In successfully completing this unit standard, learners are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apply workplace health, safety, environmental, and quality requirements</li><li>• Interpret plans, specifications, standards, and building codes</li><li>• Organise and carry out float and render work with minimal supervision</li><li>• Select materials, tools, equipment, and PPE appropriate to the task.</li><li>• Prepare templates for curved surfaces and columns</li><li>• Apply plastering finishes to straight, curved, and complex surfaces</li><li>• Produce plumb, level, and true surfaces</li><li>• Prepare surfaces and fix beads, profiles, templates, and guides accurately</li><li>• Ensure quality finishes suitable for subsequent plaster, lime setting, or textured coatings</li><li>• Clean and secure tools, equipment, and worksites</li></ul> |                 |                     |                   |   |

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| <b>Learning Outcome 1 (LO1)</b> | Organise to apply plaster/render to straight and curved surfaces                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Performance standards</b>    | <p>1.1 Read and interpret work instructions and plan sequence of work;</p> <p>1.2 Plan all plaster/render work to comply with Tonga National Building Code (TNBC);</p> <p>1.3 Inspect work site, assess hazards and apply risk controls, including required signage and barricades;</p> <p>1.4 Select and use personal protective equipment (PPE) for each stage of the task;</p> <p>1.5 Select tools and equipment, check for serviceability and report any faults;</p> <p>1.6 Select and handle materials safely for task, calculate quantities, prepare then position them ready for use;</p> <p>1.7 Select and use profiles, pins or hooks to prepare columns.</p> |
| <b>Learning Outcome 2 (LO2)</b> | Prepare templates for curved work and circular columns                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Performance Standards</b>    | <p>2.1 Select template material for curved work and circular columns;</p> <p>2.2 Establish shape and radius for curved work;</p> <p>2.3 Establish shape and radius for circular column;</p> <p>2.4 Fabricate and form templates.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Learning Outcome 3 (LO3)</b> | Prepare background surface                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Performance standards</b>    | <p>3.1 Prepare background surface by brooming, wire brushing, scarifying and cleaning;</p> <p>3.2 Hand-float walls to fill slacks and voids to background surfaces;</p> <p>3.3 Mix dash coat and apply to wetted surface;</p> <p>3.4 Apply bonding coat;</p> <p>3.5 Select and fix proprietary/metal beads for external or squint arises and check for accuracy.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Learning Outcome 4 (LO4)</b> | Apply plastering/rendering to flat and curved surfaces                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Performance standards</b>    | <p>4.1 Establish screeding lines or guides to tolerances for plastering;</p> <p>4.2 Mix floating coat to correct ratio and consistency;</p> <p>4.3 Apply floating coat and rule off to screed;</p> <p>4.4 Finish, plumb and level surface to alignment tolerance;</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|                                         | <p>4.5 Finish heads, reveals, sills square off to the wall face and back into opening;</p> <p>4.6 Cut internal angles, ceilings and floor lines.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Learning Outcome 5 (LO5)</b>         | Apply floating coat within metal beading                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Performance standards</b>            | <p>5.1 Fix proprietary beading to base surface to form a panel with expansion joint;</p> <p>5.2 Align panel to plumb and square to specified position;</p> <p>5.3 Finish panels to true, flat surfaces;</p> <p>5.4 Apply plaster and lime setting or proprietary texture finishes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Learning Outcome 6 (LO6)</b>         | Finish rendering coats on flat walls and curved work and clean up                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Performance standards</b>            | <p>6.1 Hand-float walls to fill slacks and voids to finish surfaces;</p> <p>6.2 Scour and fine walls using water and hand float systems;</p> <p>6.3 Clear work area, dispose of materials, and reuse or recycle in compliance with Tonga National Building Code;</p> <p>6.4 Clean, check, maintain and store tools and equipment in accordance with manufacturers' specifications.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Pre-requisites</b>                   | NS133-03 <i>Apply Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)</i> requirement, policies and procedures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Co-requisites</b>                    | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Underpinning skill and knowledge</b> | <p>The following skills and knowledge underpin this unit standard:</p> <p><b><u>Skills:</u></b></p> <p>Planning and Organising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpreting work instructions, drawings, and specifications</li> <li>• Planning work sequences and organising tasks efficiently</li> <li>• Selecting appropriate methods for straight, curved, or column work</li> </ul> <p>Workplace Safety and Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying OHS policies, procedures, and risk controls</li> <li>• Conducting site inspections and hazard assessments</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selecting and using appropriate personal protective equipment</li> <li>• Complying with environmental and workplace safety requirements</li> </ul> <p>Surface Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing background surfaces by brooming, wire brushing, scarifying, and cleaning</li> <li>• Mixing and applying dash coats and bonding coats correctly</li> <li>• Selecting and fixing proprietary and metal beads accurately</li> </ul> <p>Plastering Techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fabricating templates for curved surfaces and circular columns</li> <li>• Establishing screeding lines and guides</li> <li>• Applying floating and rendering coats to flat, curved, and vertical surfaces</li> <li>• Ruling off, plumbing, and levelling surfaces to tolerance</li> <li>• Finishing reveals, heads, sills, internal angles, ceilings, and floor lines</li> <li>• Applying float and render coats to piers, columns, and beaded panels</li> <li>• Hand-floating, scouring, and fine finishing surfaces</li> </ul> <p>Tools, Materials, and Equipment Handling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selecting and using plastering tools and equipment correctly</li> <li>• Checking tools for serviceability and reporting faults</li> <li>• Calculating and handling materials safely and efficiently</li> </ul> <p>Clean-up and Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning work areas and disposing of waste materials responsibly</li> <li>• Reusing and recycling materials where possible</li> <li>• Cleaning, maintaining, and storing tools and equipment properly</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Knowledge:</u></b></p> |
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|  | <p>Regulatory and Compliance Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tonga National Building Code requirements relevant to solid plastering</li> <li>• Workplace quality policies and performance standards</li> <li>• Environmental protection and waste management requirements</li> </ul> <p>Workplace Safety and Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHS legislative requirements for plastering activities</li> <li>• Job safety analyses (JSA) and safe work method statements (SWMS)</li> <li>• Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for plastering materials</li> <li>• Correct selection and use of PPE</li> </ul> <p>Materials Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses, characteristics, and limitations of materials used in solid plastering, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sand, lime, lime putty</li> <li>○ Plaster compounds and finishing coats</li> <li>○ Additives such as plasticisers, waterproofing agents, and colour agents</li> <li>○ Corner beads, casing beads, and proprietary metal beads</li> <li>○ Timber and expanded metal lathing (EML)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Plastering Processes and Techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods for preparing background surfaces</li> <li>• Techniques for floating and rendering straight and curved work</li> <li>• Template fabrication for curved surfaces and columns</li> <li>• Screeding, ruling, levelling, and finishing processes</li> <li>• Finishing techniques for flat walls, piers, columns, and panels</li> </ul> <p>Tools, Equipment, and Documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types, functions, and uses of plastering tools and equipment</li> <li>• Maintenance and storage requirements for tools</li> <li>• Interpretation of plans, drawings, and specifications relevant to float and render work</li> </ul> <p>This knowledge ensures that practical skills are applied safely, consistently and in compliance with industry expectations.</p> |
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## Assessment requirements

Assessment methods may include more than one of the following:

### Direct Observation

Assessment of learners while they are performing tasks in real time in a real simulated environment.

- The learner performs practical tasks.
- The assessor watches the learner complete these tasks against a checklist or performance standards.

#### Assessor Requirements

- Use a structured observation checklist aligned to performance standards
- Observe multiple occasions to ensure consistency of competence.
- Record evidence of safe work practices, correct use of equipment, etc.
- Provide immediate feedback where appropriate.
- Ensure conditions reflect real workplace standards.

### Oral Questioning

Verbal questions asked to assess the learner's understanding of knowledge and reasoning.

- Conducted during or after practical tasks.
- Can be structured (planned questions) or informal (follow-up probing).

#### Assessor Requirements

- Ask questions that test underpinning knowledge
- Use open-ended questions
- Confirm learner understanding where practical performance is not enough.
- Record responses clearly (notes or checklist).
- Adjust language to suit learner literacy levels.

### Written Test

A structured assessment requiring learners to provide written responses.

- Short-answer questions, multiple choice, or case scenarios.
- Typically conducted off-site or in a classroom environment.

#### Assessor Requirements

- Design questions that assess knowledge.
- Ensure the test is clear, aligned to unit requirements and appropriate for language, literacy, numeracy levels

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|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark responses using a marking guide or model answers.</li> <li>• Provide feedback and identify gaps in knowledge.</li> <li>• Ensure results reflect the learner's independent performance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Work-Based Activity</b></p> <p>Assessment conducted in a real workplace while the learner performs actual job tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners complete normal workplace duties.</li> <li>• Evidence is collected over time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessor Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate with workplace supervisors.</li> <li>• Gather evidence such as - Observation reports, Supervisor feedback, etc.</li> <li>• Verify that tasks meet unit performance standards.</li> <li>• Ensure authenticity (learner's own work).</li> <li>• Confirm competence across different situations and timeframes.</li> </ul> <p>Assessment should use a combination of the above methods to ensure sufficient, valid, authentic, and current evidence of competence in both skills and knowledge, in line with unit requirements.</p> <p><b><u>Context of Assessment:</u></b></p> <p>Competency is to be assessed in the workplace or a simulated workplace environment that accurately reflects a real workplace setting.</p> <p>Assessment is to comply with relevant regulatory or relevant standards' requirements. Assessment of essential knowledge will usually be conducted in an off-site situation.</p> |
| <p><b>Moderation arrangements</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training providers must have their own moderation system approved by TNQAB before accreditation is granted:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Relevant internal moderation processes are documented;</li> <li>b) Assessment is planned for each unit, and moderation processes are integrated into such plan.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Unless specified elsewhere, external moderation is conducted by the National Qualifications unit of TNQAB for all unit components of a national qualification:</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|                                           | <p>a) Samples of assessed activities are submitted for moderation;</p> <p>b) Moderation (external) forms are available on request.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Resource requirements</b>              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Power point presentations</li> <li>2. Trainer's Guide</li> <li>3. Learner's Guide</li> <li>4. Videos</li> <li>5. Plans and Specifications</li> <li>6. Floats (hand float, sponge float)</li> <li>7. Screeds and straight edges</li> <li>8. Trowels and finishing tools</li> <li>9. Levels (spirit or laser)</li> <li>10. Mixing equipment (cement mixer)</li> <li>11. Shovels and wheelbarrows</li> <li>12. Measuring tools (tape measures)</li> <li>13. Profiles, rules, and pins (Dutch pins/hooks)</li> <li>14. Template-making tools for curved work</li> <li>15. Brushes (wire brush, broom, water brush)</li> <li>16. Power tools (grinders, saws as needed)</li> <li>17. Sand, cement, lime, lime putty</li> <li>18. Plaster compounds and finishing coats</li> <li>19. Bonding agents and additives (plasticisers, waterproofing agents, colourants)</li> <li>20. Corner beads and casing beads</li> <li>21. Dash coat and bonding coat materials</li> <li>22. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's)</li> <li>23. Job Safety and Environmental Analysis (JSEA)</li> <li>24. Structured assessment and evidence-collection tools</li> <li>25. Hawks (10)</li> </ol> |
| <b>Requirements to complete this unit</b> | <p>There are six (6) Learning outcomes and thirty (30) Performance Standards to measure competence.</p> <p>To demonstrate competence, the person studying this unit is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Required to demonstrate all LOs to the expected standards;</li> <li>b. Required to attain an Achieved Grade (Competent) to fulfil the requirements of the Unit Standard;</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|                                               | <p>c. Eligible to three (3) attempts to achieve the required competency within 14 days of the first attempt.</p> <p>Failure to achieve the required competency after three (3) attempts on the specific part of the assessment will require the person studying this Unit to re-enrol for the same Unit.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Important notes and definitions</b></p> | <p><b><u>Notes:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All training and assessment activities must be in accordance with Tonga National Building Code.</li> <li>2. Assessors must comply with the Tonga national assessment and moderation requirements.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Definitions:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Additives</i> refer to substances added to modify plaster properties (e.g., waterproofing).</li> <li>2. <i>Arises</i> refer to edges or corners formed by intersecting surfaces.</li> <li>3. <i>Beads (corner/casing beads)</i> refer to metal or plastic strips used to form straight edges.</li> <li>4. <i>Bonding coat</i> refers to layer applied to ensure adhesion between surface and render.</li> <li>5. <i>Clean up</i> refers to dispose of waste and maintain tools and site.</li> <li>6. <i>Column</i> refers to vertical cylindrical structural element.</li> <li>7. <i>Curved surface</i> refers to rounded or circular plastered surface.</li> <li>8. <i>Dash coat</i> refers to rough base coat applied to improve bonding.</li> <li>9. <i>Finish work</i> refers to clean joints and brick surfaces.</li> <li>10. <i>Float</i> refers to tool for smoothing plaster surfaces.</li> <li>11. <i>Floating</i> refers to levelling and smoothing plaster surfaces before finishing.</li> <li>12. <i>JSEA (Job Safety and Environmental Analysis)</i> refers to risk assessment process.</li> <li>13. <i>Level</i> refers to horizontal alignment.</li> </ol> |

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|                                | <p>14. <i>Lime putty</i> refers to lime-based binding material used in plaster mixes.</p> <p>15. <i>OHS (Occupational Health and Safety)</i> refers to workplace safety regulations and practices.</p> <p>16. <i>Plumb</i> refers to vertical alignment of a wall.</p> <p>17. <i>PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)</i> refers to safety equipment such as helmets, boots, gloves, and high-visibility clothing.</p> <p>18. <i>Profile</i> refers to guide used to maintain shape and alignment in plastering</p> <p>19. <i>Rendering</i> refers to application of a plaster coat to external or internal surfaces.</p> <p>20. <i>Screed</i> refers to tool or guide used to level plaster evenly.</p> <p>21. <i>Set out</i> refers to marking positions for construction work.</p> <p>22. <i>Setting-Out Instrument</i> refers to tools used to measure and align structures (e.g., tape measures, spirit levels, automatic and laser levels)</p> <p>23. <i>Slacks</i> refer to loose or sagging areas in a plaster subsurface</p> <p>24. <i>Template</i> refers to guide used to shape curved surfaces.</p> <p>25. <i>Tonga National Building Code</i> refers to a set of technical provisions for the design and construction of buildings and structures in Tonga.</p> <p>26. <i>Work area</i> refers to the particular section where tasks are performed at the work site.</p> |
| <b>Public comments on unit</b> | <p>Please contact TNQAB National Qualifications Unit (email <a href="mailto:EnquireNQ@tnqab.to">EnquireNQ@tnqab.to</a> or Telephone 28136) if you like to discuss or suggest changes to the details of this unit.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |