

**REGISTERED
NATIONAL STANDARD
UNIT OF COMPETENCY**



Title:	Use plastering tools and equipment ¹				
TQF Level:	3	Credits:	3	Version:	1
National standard code:	NS149-03				
Associated qualification (and code):	1. National Certificate in Bricklaying and Blocklaying Level 3 QR-03-NQ-028-01-1005-26-01 2. National Certificate in Wall and Floor Tiling Level 4 QR-04-NQ-028-04-1005-26-01				
Approval date:	10 September 2026		Review date:	10 September 2031	
Purpose:	This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to safely select, inspect, operate, maintain and store hand tools, power tools and equipment used in solid plastering work. It applies to individuals performing routine plastering tasks under supervision and in accordance with work instructions, workplace procedures, and relevant occupational health and safety and environmental requirements. In successfully completing this unit standard, learners are able to: • Read and interpret work instructions, drawings, and specifications to determine plastering preparation requirements • Plan plastering work sequences that comply with Tonga National Building Code, OHS, environmental and workplace requirements • Apply workplace quality policies and standards when preparing surfaces • Identify workplace hazards and implement risk control measures, including signage and barricades • Apply job safety analysis (JSA), safe work method statements (SWMS), and safety data sheets (SDS) requirements • Select and use personal protective equipment (PPE) for each stage of plastering preparation • Select, use, check, maintain, and store appropriate tools and equipment • Identify faults in tools and report issues according to workplace procedures • Dispose of waste materials, reuse, or recycle in accordance with environmental requirements and codes of practice • Apply environmental requirements and waste management practices. • Work under supervision while following workplace instructions and coordinating with experienced workers				

¹ Due to safety issues inherent in working with electricity and combustible substances, all training and assessment activities must be in accordance with Tonga National Building Code.

Learning Outcome 1 (LO1)	Plan and prepare to use solid plastering tools and equipment
Performance standards	1.1 Read and interpret work instructions and plan sequence of work; 1.2 Plan all work to comply with Tonga National Building Code (TNBC), work health and safety and environmental requirements, manufacturers' specifications, workplace requirements, drawings and specifications; 1.3 Select personal protective equipment (PPE) for each part of the task; 1.4 Inspect work site, locate services, assess hazards and apply risk controls, including required signage and barricades.
Learning Outcome 2 (LO2)	Select and check tools and equipment
Performance Standards	2.1 Select tools and equipment for the task based on their functions and limitations, check for serviceability and report any faults; 2.2 Check power tools and electrical leads are tested and tagged; 2.3 Conduct pre-operational checks on tools and equipment to manufacturers' specifications; 2.4 Examine power tools and equipment to ensure guards are fitted and working, blades and attachments are securely tied, and switches are operational.
Learning Outcome 3 (LO3)	Utilise tools and equipment
Performance standards	3.1 Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE); 3.2 Follow start-up and shut-down procedures; 3.3 Use tools and equipment following safe operating procedures; 3.4 Apply safe work practices to perform plastering task.
Learning Outcome 4 (LO4)	Clean up work area
Performance standards	4.1 Clear the work area, and dispose of, reuse or recycle materials following workplace and environmental requirements; 4.2 Clean tools and equipment and check for serviceability; 4.3 Report damage or faults to relevant personnel; 4.4 Store and secure tools, equipment and materials following workplace procedures.

Pre-requisites	NS133-03 Apply <i>Occupational Health and Safety</i> (OHS) requirements, policies and procedures
Co-requisites	N/A
Underpinning skill and knowledge	The following skills and knowledge underpin this unit standard: <u>Skills:</u> Planning and Preparation • Reading and interpreting work instructions, drawings and specifications • Planning work sequences in line with job requirements • Identifying hazards, assessing risks and applying appropriate control measures • Selecting and correctly using personal protective equipment (PPE) Tool and Equipment Operation • Selecting appropriate hand tools and power tools for plastering tasks • Conducting pre-use inspections and serviceability checks • Operating tools and equipment in accordance with manufacturer instructions • Following correct start-up and shut-down procedures • Using tools safely to complete plastering tasks to workplace standards Maintenance and Housekeeping • Cleaning tools and equipment after use • Performing basic maintenance checks • Safely storing tools and equipment • Disposing of waste materials in accordance with environmental requirements Communication and Workplace Environment • Reporting faulty tools and equipment • Working under direction and following workplace procedures • Complying with OHS and environmental policies

	These skills must be demonstrated using a defined range of solid plastering tools, including power tools, hand tools and measuring equipment. <u>Knowledge:</u> <u>Regulatory and Compliance</u> • Workplace OHS requirements and responsibilities • Environmental protection requirements relating to plastering activities • Safe work practices for using hand tools and power tools • Job Safety Analyses (JSA) and Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) • Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for materials used in plastering • Correct selection and use of PPE <u>Tools and Equipment</u> • Purpose, function and limitations of plastering tools and equipment, including but not limited to: ○ Power grinder ○ Cement mixer ○ Power saw ○ Hand tools such as floats, screeds, trowels, hawks and levels • Manufacturer specifications for operation, maintenance and storage <u>Workplace Quality Standards</u> • Workplace quality policies and standards • Importance of maintaining tools to ensure accuracy, safety and longevity This knowledge ensures that practical skills are applied safely, consistently and in compliance with industry expectations.
Assessment requirements	<u>Assessment methods</u> 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 • Mark responses using a marking guide or model answers. • Provide feedback and identify gaps in knowledge. • Ensure results reflect the learner's independent performance.
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	Work-Based Activity Assessment conducted in a real workplace while the learner performs actual job tasks. • Learners complete normal workplace duties. • Evidence is collected over time. Assessor Requirements • Coordinate with workplace supervisors. • Gather evidence such as - Observation reports, Supervisor feedback, etc. • Verify that tasks meet unit performance standards. • Ensure authenticity (learner's own work). • Confirm competence across different situations and timeframes. 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. <u>Context of Assessment:</u> Competency is to be assessed in the workplace or a simulated workplace environment that accurately reflects a real workplace setting. Assessment is to comply with relevant regulatory or relevant standards' requirements. Assessment of essential knowledge will usually be conducted in an off-site situation.
Moderation arrangements	1. Training providers must have their own moderation system approved by TNQAB before accreditation is granted: a) Relevant internal moderation processes are documented; b) Assessment is planned for each unit, and moderation processes are integrated into such plan. 2. Unless specified elsewhere, external moderation is conducted by the National Qualifications unit of TNQAB for all unit components of a national qualification: a) Samples of assessed activities are submitted for moderation; b) Moderation (external) forms are available on request.
Resource requirements	1. Power point presentations 2. Trainer's Guide

	3. Learner's Guide 4. Videos 5. Plans and Specifications 6. Power grinder 7. Cement mixer 8. Power saw 9. Air compressor 10. Level 11. Float and sponge float 12. Screed 13. Shovel 14. Wheelbarrow 15. Mud board and stand 16. Tin snips 17. Water brush and paint brush 18. Handboard (hawk) 19. Screw gun 20. Hammer 21. Comb 22. Sprayline 23. Small hand tools 24. Tape measure 25. PPE's 26. Structured assessment and evidence-collection tools
Requirements to complete this unit	There are four (4) Learning outcomes and sixteen (16) Performance Standards to measure competence. To demonstrate competence, the person studying this unit is: a. Required to demonstrate all LOs to the expected standards; b. Required to attain an Achieved Grade (Competent) to fulfil the requirements of the Unit Standard; c. Eligible to three (3) attempts to achieve the required competency within 14 days of the first attempt. 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.

Important notes and definitions

Notes:

1. All training and assessment activities must be in accordance with Tonga National.
2. Assessors must comply with the Tonga national assessment and moderation requirements.

Definitions:

1. *Air compressor* refers to machine supplying compressed air for tools.
2. *Environmental Requirements* refer to regulations and workplace procedures aimed at reducing environmental impact, including waste management and recycling.
3. *Finish* refers to the final surface texture or appearance achieved after plastering
4. *Float* refers to tool used to smooth plaster surfaces.
5. *Hand tools* refer to manually operated tools (e.g., trowel, float).
6. *Hawk (handboard)* refers to tool used to hold plaster while applying to surfaces.
7. *JSA (Job Safety Analysis)* refers to a systematic process to identify hazards and determine appropriate control measures before starting work.
8. *Plastering tools* refer to tools used to apply, shape, and finish plaster materials.
9. *Power tools* refer to electrically operated tools (e.g., grinder, saw).
10. *PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)* refers to protective clothing and equipment (e.g., gloves, masks, goggles) used to minimise exposure to hazards.
11. *Pre-operational check* refers to inspection before using equipment.
12. *Screed* refers to tool for levelling plaster to uniform thickness.
13. *SDS (Safety Data Sheet)* refers to a document that provides information on hazardous substances, including safe use, handling, storage, and emergency measures.

	14. <i>Serviceability</i> refers to condition indicating tools are safe and functional. 15. <i>Solid plastering</i> refers to application of plaster materials to surfaces such as walls or ceilings. 16. <i>Sponge float</i> refers to tool used for finishing and texture work. 17. <i>Start-up and shut-down procedures</i> refer to steps to safely begin and finish tool operation. 18. <i>Substrate Defects</i> refers to imperfections such as cracks, holes, loose materials, or uneven surfaces that must be corrected before plastering. 19. <i>SWMS (Safe Work Method Statement)</i> refers to a document outlining the safe procedures for high-risk construction work. 20. <i>Tonga National Building Code</i> refers to a set of technical standards governing the design and construction of buildings in Tonga. 21. <i>Workability</i> refers to the ease with which plaster or patching material can be mixed, applied, and finished. 22. <i>Work area</i> refers to the particular section where tasks are performed at the work site.
Public comments on unit	Please contact TNQAB National Qualifications Unit (email EnquireNQ@tnqab.to or Telephone 28136) if you like to discuss or suggest changes to the details of this unit.