



11 February 2011

BUILDING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR 2011 AND BEYOND

ETITO and New Zealand's security industry will soon confirm a new entry level qualification for security guards.

The new standards will mark another significant step in work that began some years ago, and which will continue, to lift the professionalism of the security industry through national qualifications training.

ETITO, the industry training organisation and standards-setting body for the security industry, is focused on working with security industry participants - principally via the New Zealand Security Association - to confirm new standards.

The standards will form the new National Certificate in Security [Level 2] qualification, providing a minimum entry-level for the industry, with skills training across a range of areas including communication, law, conflict management, emergency management and crowd control.

ETITO's Manager – Strategy and Corporate Relations Michael Frampton says the new standards are designed to provide a strong platform from which the security industry can continue to build its professional standing.

“Qualifications and clear minimum standards are the foundation for any industry, and for one so strongly people-facing and focused as the security industry, they are critical.”

Mr Frampton says that ETITO is working to ensure that the new standards will complement the licensing regime being introduced on 1 April this year after the passing of the Private Security Personnel and Private Investigators Act last year. The Act regulates the private security industry, private investigators and their staff.

“While there has been a lot of talk about changes being made in time for the Rugby World Cup, it's important that we don't lose sight of the fact that lifting the professional standards of the industry is a far longer and lasting game than this one major event.

“Having professional security personnel for the World Cup is very important but so is having professional security personnel in New Zealand next year and the year after. The work that ETITO and industry have been undertaking over several years remains focused on ways to ensure any changes will bring long-term benefits for the industry and New Zealand as a whole.”

Once the new standards are confirmed by the industry - which is expected by the end of March - the national certificate qualification will be submitted to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority to be registered on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework. Once this has been completed, training arrangements will be confirmed to enable security personnel to begin the new qualification.

In the meantime, there are already more than 2000 security guards in industry training through ETITO, working towards existing national security certificates and many people have already achieved national qualifications.

Ends

For more information contact:

Josephine Gallagher – Communications Manager

T: [09] 583 1354

M: 027 673 4869