

Mandatory upgrade – how this may affect you

The last review of the arboriculture training package resulted in many changes to arboriculture qualifications. Arboriculture Australia Ltd is making the relevant current core units of competency mandatory for existing Registered Professional members from the **1st January 2017**.

From the 1st January 2014, all **new** Registered Professional members will need the current AHC10 qualification.

The board of Arboriculture Australia Ltd believes that this will help ensure that our Registered Professional members are providing a safe and high quality service.

What are the changes: These new units specifically target ‘critical arboriculture skills and knowledge’ required by those providing arboricultural services. The new core units for each Registered Professional membership category that must be demonstrated are listed below:

Diploma Units – required by Registered Consulting Arborists™

AHCARB501A	Assess trees
AHCARB502A	Identify, select and specify trees
AHCARB503A	Diagnose tree diseases
AHCARB504A	Develop a tree protection program
AHCARB505A	Document and audit tree work

Certificate III units – required by Registered Practising Arborists™ and Registered Qualified Arborists™

AHCARB302A	Conduct tree inspections
AHCARB310A	Perform aerial rigging

Certificate II units – required by all Registered Tree Workers™

AHCARB207A	Perform ground based rigging
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What this may mean for you: If you are a Registered Professional member, you must have demonstrated competency in the units listed for your membership category, regardless of the qualification you hold. This applies to all existing members from the **1st January 2017** who presently hold a qualification that complies to the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).

Competency will need to be validated by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and can be attained through course work, Recognised Prior Learning (RPL), credit transfer or a combination of these methods. A list of RTOs delivering arboriculture can be found on the Arboriculture Australia Ltd website www.arboriculture.org.au. For those that have the skills, upgrading is a fairly simple process, whilst those who lack the skills will gain significant benefits from the new skills.

A suggested pathway outline explaining how to achieve the new required competencies is available on the Arboriculture Australia Ltd website.

Should you have any questions regarding the mandatory upgrade please contact Arboriculture Australia Ltd at enquiries@arboriculture.org.au.