

## Relevant Standard(s):

Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015, Clauses 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.8, 1.12 and 3.5.

## Purpose

Mining Skills Australia is committed to providing quality training and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Standards for Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015. As such, Mining Skills Australia offers Recognition for Prior Learning to all learners and implements an assessment system that ensures that assessment (including Recognition of Prior Learning) complies with assessment requirements for Training Packages and VET Accredited courses, the Principal of Assessment and Rules of Evidence. Likewise, Mining Skills Australia has a process in place and provides a clear instruction and guidance on granting credit transfers to students for previously completed and formally assessed learning.

## Scope

Mining Skills Australia is committed to providing effective processes for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Credit Transfer to all current and prospective students. Mining Skills Australia will ensure that:

- a) Assessment systems includes Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) complies with the assessment requirements of relevant training packages and VET accredited courses;
- b) RPL is conducted in accordance with the principals of assessment and rules of evidence;
- c) RPL is offered to all students on enrolment;
- d) Adequate information and support are provided to learners in order to understand the RPL process and the requirements to gather reliable evidence to support their recognition claim;
- e) It will recognise AQF certification documentation issued by another RTO's;
- f) Students will be made aware of their right to apply for a credit transfer; and
- g) It complies with the VET Regulator's guidelines in processing and granting credit transfer.

## Policy Principles

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) refers to an assessment process that assesses the competencies an individual may have acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning to determine the extent to which that individual meets the requirements specified in the training package or VET accredited courses.

- a) Formal learning refers to learning that takes place through a structured program of instruction and is linked to the attainment of an AQF qualification or statement of attainment (for example, a certificate, diploma, or university degree).
- b) Non-formal learning that takes place through a structured program of instruction but does not lead to the attainment of an AQF qualification or statement of attainment (for example, in-house professional development programs conducted by a business).
- c) Informal learning refers to learning that results through experience of work-related, social, family, hobby, or leisure activities (for example, the acquisition of interpersonal skills developed through several years as a sales representative).

Mining Skills Australia's students may apply for formal recognition of existing competencies against the AQF qualification or accredited course or unit of competency or module that Mining Skills Australia is registered to deliver prior to commencing their course study.

Mining Skills Australia will provide adequate information to students including the RPL Kit that contains RPL information including:

- a) The specific skills and documentation required for the unit of competency where the student wishes to be assessed;
- b) RPL process and application;
- c) Timeframe for RPL assessment;
- d) Any support that the Mining Skills Australia assessor can provide;
- e) Costs and payment schedule associated with RPL; and
- f) Making appeals on all/part of the RPL outcome and associated fees (if applicable).

The assessor for the unit of competency being applied for will be the person responsible for providing the RPL Kit and all necessary information to the student in relation to the RPL process. The burden will be upon the candidate to demonstrate competence to the assessor(s), including the provision of certificate documentation. Competency may be derived from many sources, including, but not limited to:

- a) Work experiences;
- b) Work product;
- c) Life experiences;
- d) Training programs offered by industry, private or community-based providers which may or may not have been formally recognised;
- e) Training programs undertaken overseas;
- f) Informal learning programs; and/or
- g) Certification from another RTO.

The RPL assessment decision will comply with the Principals of Assessment and Rules of Evidence as outlined in SRT0's 2015 and the requirements of the relevant training package and VET accredited course.

Certification documentation will not be issued unless all relevant fees are paid in full. Certification documentations are issued in accordance with Mining Skills Australia's Certificate Issuance Policy.

Students are informed in writing of the RPL assessment outcome within the timeframe specified in the RPL Kit. Where RPL is not granted for any unit of competency the written notification will include the reason for the decision. In cases where a student is not granted RPL and believes the decision should be reversed Mining Skills Australia will follow the procedures outlined in the Appeals Procedure Document.

### **Mutual Recognition/Credit Transfer**

Mining Skills Australia will accept and mutually recognise the decisions and outcomes of any RTO or entity in partnership with an RTO, thereby ensuring mutual acceptance throughout Australia of the certification documentation awarded by other RTO's or AQF Authorised Issuing Organisations.

Mining Skills Australia will apply credit to all relevant units of competency/modules after conducting a review and verification of AQF certification documentation from other RTOs, and authenticated VET transcripts issued by the Registrar.

Mutual Recognition applies when the certification documentation provided by the learner contains the same National competency code as those that form part of the training and assessment program offered by Mining Skills Australia.

Certification documentation must be presented as either originals or certified copies of an original. Certified copies must be signed by an authorised signatory in order to verify authenticity. Original certification documentation will be returned to the applicant.

Mining Skills Australia is not obligated to issue an AQF qualification or statement of attainment that is achieved wholly through recognition of units and/or modules completed at another RTO. (i.e., learner cannot complete all their training and assessment with another RTO, and request that Mining Skills Australia issue the qualification under Recognition).

The amount of recognition contributing to the issuance of a certification (i.e., using units/modules completed at other RTOs) will be at the discretion of Mining Skills Australia.

In the event a learner wishes to undertake refresher training in a unit/module for which they have been previously awarded recognition, then the learner will be advised that the completion of the assessment is not necessary, however, may be offered as an option.

Where the recognised AQF qualification and attributed units/modules form part of another AQF qualification, the learner will only be enrolled in the additional units required to complete the new qualification. In such cases, fees will reflect reduced learning load.

### Determining Equivalence

In the event the learner wishes to credit units of competency that are not offered by Mining Skills Australia but fulfil the packaging rules for a qualification that Mining Skills Australia offers, Mining Skills Australia will refer to the National Register to determine if the unit of competency that the learner wishes to credit is equivalent to any of the units that is within Mining Skills Australia's scope.

In the event the learner wishes to credit units from a superseded course, provisions from Mining Skills Australia's Transition Policy may apply on top of the provisions in this Policy.

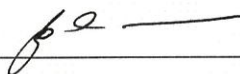
### Verification of Certification Documentation

Before providing credit based on a qualification, statement of attainment, or record of results, the assessor/s for the unit/s of competency being assessed must authenticate the information in the document. This may be done through methods including, but not limited to gathering feedback from the organisation that issued the document and confirming the content is valid.

### Monitoring and Improvement

Mining Skills Australia's CEO is responsible for the RPL and Credit Transfer process and ensuring that all trainers and assessors make consistent judgements when conducting RPL assessments and that administration staff consistently verify documentation prior to credit transfer grants.

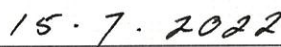
All RPL and Credit Transfer activities are monitored by the CEO of Mining Skills Australia. The CEO will ensure that areas for improvement identified, reviewed, and acted upon following Mining Skills Australia's Continuous Improvement Policy principles.



**Graeme Bradshaw**

Managing Director

Mining Skills Australia



**Date**

## Annexure A – Principles of Assessment

<b>Fairness</b>	<p>The individual learner's needs are considered in the assessment process.</p> <p>Where applicable, reasonable adjustments are applied by the RTO to consider the individual learner's needs.</p> <p>The RTO informs the learner about the assessment process and provides the learner with the opportunity to challenge the result of the assessment and be reassessed if necessary.</p>
<b>Flexibility</b>	<p>Assessment is flexible to the individual learner by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reflecting the learner's needs;</li> <li>- Assessing competencies held by the learner no matter how or where they have been acquired, and</li> <li>- Drawing from a range of assessment methods and using those that are appropriate to the context, the unit of competency and associated assessment requirements, and the individual.</li> </ul>
<b>Validity</b>	<p>Any assessment decision of the RTO is justified, based on the evidence of performance of the individual learner. Validity requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment against the unit/s of competency and the associated assessment requirements covers the broad range of skills and knowledge that are essential to competent performance;</li> <li>- Assessment of knowledge and skills is integrated with their practical application;</li> <li>- Assessment to be based on evidence that demonstrates that a learner could demonstrate these skills and knowledge in other similar situations; and</li> <li>- Judgement of competence is based on evidence of learner performance that is aligned to the unit/s of competency and associated assessment requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Reliability</b>	<p>Evidence presented for assessment is consistently interpreted and assessment results are comparable irrespective of the assessor conducting the assessment.</p>

## Annexure B – Rules of Evidence

<b>Validity</b>	<p>The assessor is assured that the learner has the skills, knowledge, and attributes as described in the module or unit of competency and associated assessment requirements.</p>
<b>Sufficiency</b>	<p>The assessor is assured that the quality, quantity, and relevance of the assessment evidence enable a judgement to be made of a learner's competency.</p>
<b>Authenticity</b>	<p>The assessor is assured that the evidence presented for assessment is the learner's own work.</p>
<b>Currency</b>	<p>The assessor is assured that the assessment evidence demonstrates current competency. This requires the assessment evidence to be from the present or very recent past.</p>

## Version Control

DATE	SUMMARY OF MODIFICATIONS	MODIFIED BY	VERSION
18/10/2018	Policy creation	360RTO	1.0
02/02/2021	Policy placed into MSA format	K Percival	1.01
03/03/2021	Updated document name & footer formatting	Z Nash	1.02
01/07/2022	Updated Signature Name & Header/Footer Version Number	N Pergaris	1.03
05/07/2022	Updated formatting and grammar	Anne Thomas	1.04
07/07/2022	Changed 'Mining Skills Australia Transition of Superseded Courses Policy' to 'Mining Skills Australia's Transition Policy' and updated list formatting.	A Earl	1.05
12/07/2022	Insert date into footer	A Earl	1.06
15/07/2022	Added policy number under the heading	T Maris	1.07