

Understanding Qualifications

A qualification refers to two inter-related concepts:

- **Official Documentation:** It is an official document issued as recognition of having achieved competency in specific units.
- **Group of Units of Competency:** This is a group of units (sometimes referred to as 'subjects') that are 'packaged' together to meet the requirements for a particular industry role at a specific level.

The two concepts of a qualification are interrelated because the official documentation (qualification) is issued in recognition of competency achieved in all the units in a particular group. The units that can be grouped to form a qualification may vary based on 'packaging' rules.

Composition of a Qualification

A typical qualification includes:

- The total number of Units of Competency required
- The number of core units
- The number of elective units
- Rules governing the selection of elective units

Packaging Rules

These rules define which Units of Competency can be grouped to make a qualification, including which units are 'core' and must be included. The packaging rules are detailed on the www.training.gov.au page associated with each qualification.

Endorsed Components of a Training Package

Qualifications are one part of the endorsed component of a Training Package. The other components include:

- Units of Competency
- Assessment requirements (associated with each Unit)
- Qualifications
- Credit arrangements

Qualification Codes

Each qualification within a Training Package is assigned a unique alpha-numeric code for identification. The code reflects the industry or training package the qualification belongs to, the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level, the sequence of the qualification within a Training Package, and the year of endorsement.

Qualification Levels

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) has ten qualification levels, ranging from Certificate I to the most complex, a Doctoral Degree at level 10. Within the VET sector, AQF Qualifications from Certificate I to Graduate Diploma (level 8) can be obtained.

AQF Qualifications are nationally recognised and provide a consistent understanding of the nature, depth, and breadth of skills and knowledge required to achieve each level.

Note: This VET Fact Sheet provides general information and should not be considered as legal advice.