

Issued: March 31, 2021

**Program:** **LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST**

**To:** ITA Training Providers  
Articulation Chair  
System Liaison Person  
Youth Train in Trades School Districts

**RE:** **OPSN 2021 001**

**Effective Date:** September 1, 2021

**Summary:** Given the exceptional circumstances surrounding Covid-19, and in the best interests of apprentices and training providers, ITA made the decision in March 2020 to temporarily waive written Standard Level Exams (SLE). We are now moving toward reimplementation of all SLEs with a target date of September 1, 2021, subject to safety guidelines at that time.

ITA Standardized Level Exam (SLE) is being introduced for harmonized **Level 2** of the **LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST** program.

**Details:** Apprentice technical training of **Level 2** of **LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST** that begin(s) after **September 1, 2021** will be required to sit the ITA **Level 2** Exam. The exam will contribute 20% to an apprentice's final mark.

An Exam Weighting Chart is available for the **LANDSCAPE HORTICULTURIST Level 2** Exam on ITA's website at <https://www.itabc.ca/program/horticulturist-landscape> in the box titled, **Harmonized Program Information**. This chart shows the approximate percentage of weighting per General Area of Competency (GAC).

**Rationale:** ITA implemented Standardized Level Exams as part of an assessment strategy to ensure consistent outcomes at each program level for apprentices throughout BC.

## General Information

**Scheduling Exams:** Exams are to be requested by training providers via the usual ITA procedure. For more information, please see <https://www.itabc.ca/training-provider-resources>. Training providers are required to complete an ITA Exam Request Form six to eight weeks prior to the scheduled exam date. Training providers are encouraged to identify courses using the Session ID, to aid in confirmation of exam type. ITA will provide an invigilator for these exams.

**Calculating and Submitting Final Marks for Blended Exams:**

**Process**

- ITA administers the exam, records the mark in Direct Access (DA), and reports it to the training provider.
- The training provider blends the in-school (80%) and SLE (20%) marks to produce a final mark for the level (or as indicated in the Assessment Guidelines).
- The training provider reports the final, blended mark to ITA and records it in DA.
- DA reports the final, blended mark to the apprentice as a single percentage score.
  - When the final mark is entered into DA, the system performs a reverse calculation using the SLE mark to determine the in-school mark.
  - All three marks are stored in the apprentice's record, but only the final blended mark is reported on the ITA transcript.
  - A blended mark of 70% or greater is required to pass the level.

**For more information:**

ITA Program Standards  
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**cc:**

ITA Staff