

OFFICIAL PROGRAM STANDARDS NOTICE (OPSN)

Issued: September 10, 2025

Program: DRYWALL FINISHER**To:** SkilledTradesBC Training Providers
Articulation Chair
System Liaison Person
Youth Train in Trades School Districts**Subject:** Implementation of Drywall Finisher and Plasterer Red Seal Program**OPSN No.:** OPSN 2025 017**Effective Date:** April 1, 2026**Summary of Change:** Effective April 1, 2026, the Drywall Finisher program in BC will become designated as a Red Seal trade. The program will adopt the Red Seal trade name “Drywall Finisher and Plasterer”.

A Transition Plan, Program Profile, and Program Outline have been posted to the [SkilledTradesBC website](https://www.skilledtradesbc.ca).

Details: In August 2023, BC Drywall Finisher subject matter experts participated in the review of the 2023 Drywall Finisher and Plasterer Red Seal Occupational Standard (RSOS).

Subsequently, a program review was conducted in August 2024 to align BC’s Drywall Finisher program outline to the 2023 RSOS. The review process resulted in revised content to meet current industry standards.

In June 2025, Drywall Finisher and Plasterer was approved by the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeships (CCDA) to be delivered as a Red Seal program in BC.

The trade name and work-based training (WBT) hours have been updated to align to the 2023 RSOS recommendations. There is no change to the number of training levels. There are minimal changes to the sequencing of technical training.

Drywall Finisher	Changes in BC?	What will it be?
Trade name	Yes	Drywall Finisher and Plasterer
Total hours (WBT and technical training hours)	Yes	5,400 hours Increase of 540 WBT
Training levels	No	2 Levels
Training sequence	Yes	Minimal changes

Details (continued): Further changes to the Drywall Finisher program in BC are as follows:

- An updated occupation description and Occupational Analysis Chart (OAC)
- Changes to competency distribution across program levels. For details, see the attached Competency Migration chart.
- Introduction of the Interprovincial Red Seal Endorsement.
- Updated apprentice and challenge pathway credentialing models that capture the **removal** of the Drywall Finisher Certificate of Qualification (CofQ) exam and the **introduction** of the Drywall Finisher and Plasterer Interprovincial Red Seal exam as the final certification exam.
- Revised challenge pathway hour requirements to align to the increased apprentice hour requirements
 - Previous requirement: 6,750 hours
 - New requirement: 7,560 hours
- A revised Level 1 Standardized Level Exam (SLE) that aligns to the updated program. Further details on the revised Level 1 SLE will be announced via a future OPSN.

Transition to Harmonized Program:

Starting April 1, 2026, please implement the Harmonized Drywall Finisher and Plasterer program. Full details are available in the Transition Plan posted on the [SkilledTradesBC website](https://www.skilledtradesbc.ca/transition-plan).

Transition Plan Summary

Implementation Timelines	
Harmonized Level 1 (HL1)	April 1, 2026
Harmonized Level 2 (HL2)	April 1, 2026

Year 0 04/2025	CL1	CL2
Year 1 04/2026	HL1	HL2

SkilledTradesBC will undertake a communication initiative to ensure that all apprentices, employers, and other internal and external partners are aware of the changes in the program.

Rationale:

An industry-led request to adopt the Red Seal Drywall Finisher and Plasterer program in BC began in 2023. SkilledTradesBC engaged with employers, training providers, industry organizations, and unions throughout the process. By adopting the Red Seal program, an expected outcome is increased participation and interest in the Drywall Finisher and Plasterer trade in BC.

Harmonization Background: At the request of industry, the CCDA Harmonization Initiative was launched in Fall of 2013 and endorsed by the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM) in 2014. The goal of Harmonization is to substantively align apprenticeship systems across Canada by making apprenticeship training requirements more consistent in the Red Seal trades.

In consultation with stakeholders, the CCDA identified four Harmonization priorities: trade name, total training hours (in-school + work-based training), number of training levels, and the sequencing of training content.

Attachments:

- Drywall Finisher and Plasterer Credentialing Model Comparison
- Drywall Finisher and Plasterer Competency Migration Chart

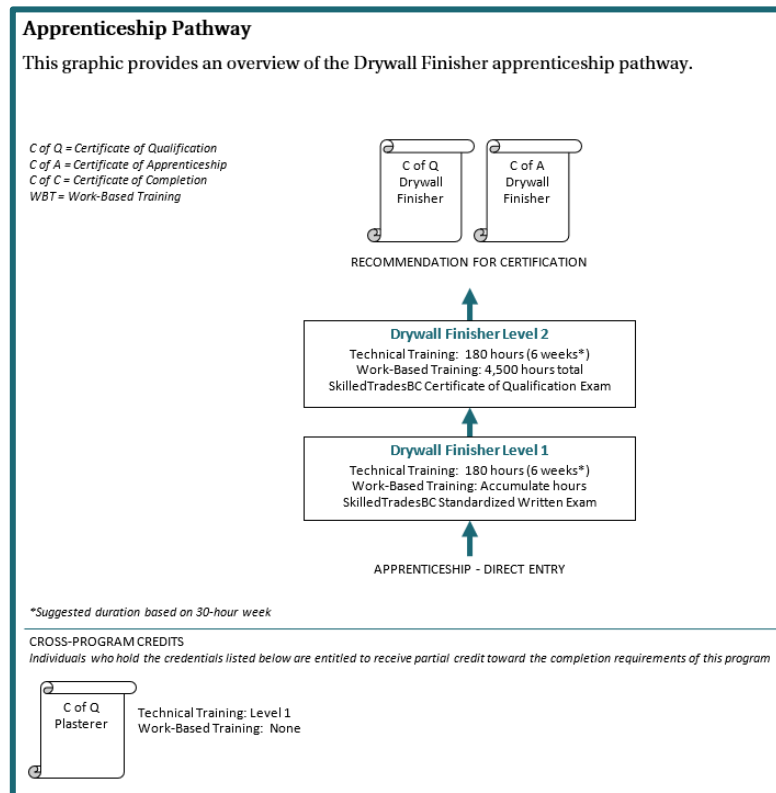
For more information contact: Program Standards
email: programstandards@skilledtradesbc.ca

cc: All Staff

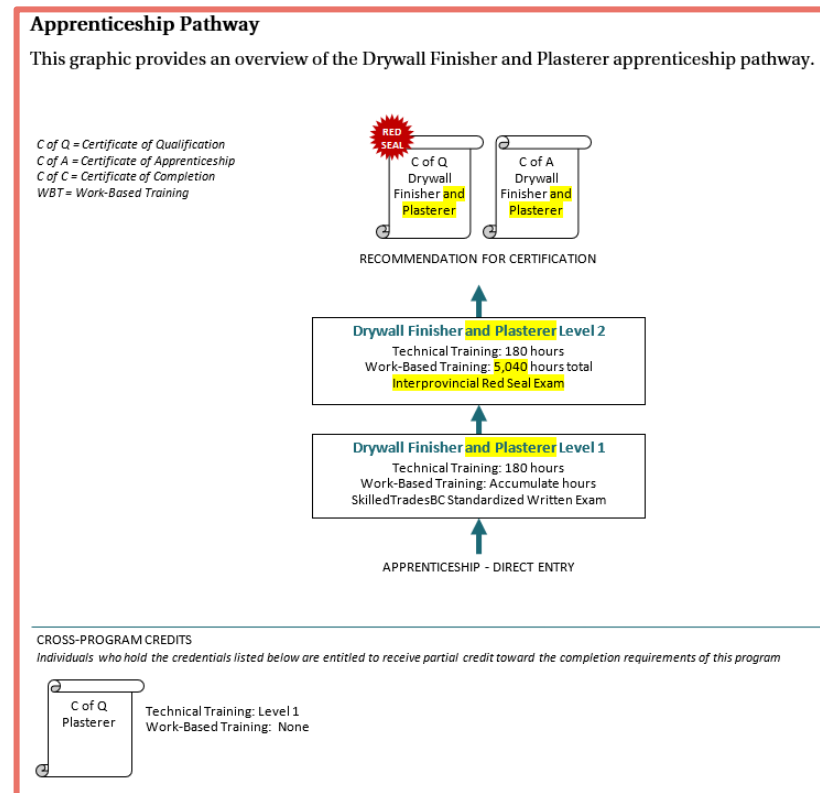
Drywall Finisher and Plasterer *Credentialing Model Comparison*

APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY

Current Standard



Updated Standard April 1, 2026



Drywall Finisher and Plasterer *Credentialing Model Comparison*

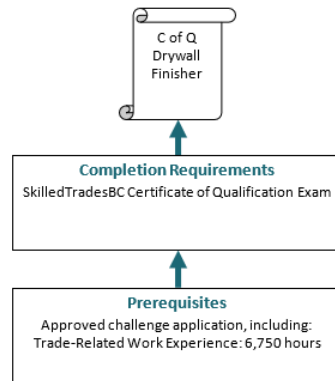
CHALLENGE PATHWAY

Current *Standard*

Challenge Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Drywall Finisher challenge pathway.

C of Q = Certificate of Qualification

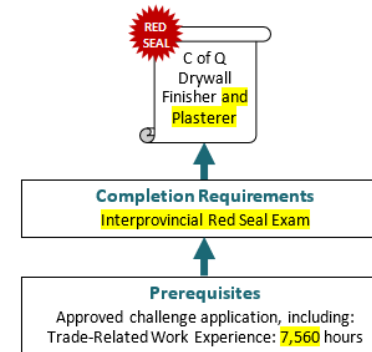


Updated *Standard April 1, 2026*

Challenge Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Drywall Finisher and Plasterer challenge pathway.

C of Q = Certificate of Qualification



CL = Current Level (1, 2)

HL = Harmonized Level (1, 2)

RSOS = Red Seal Occupational Standard

Key

Black Text = No change to level

Blue Text = Content moved to lower level = HL1 ← CL2

Purple Text = Content moved to higher level = CL1 → HL2

Green Text = New content added

Red Text = Content removed

Summary - Competency Migration

The BC Occupational Analysis Chart (OAC) was aligned to the content of the 2023 Red Seal Occupational Standard (RSOS). Therefore, **competencies have been renamed and restructured**. This chart shows the finalized competency distribution for the Drywall Finisher and Plasterer (2026) program. It summarizes the major changes to the competencies from the current program to the harmonized program. For details, see the charts below.

DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 1 (HL1)		DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 2 (HL2)	
Line A	PERFORM SAFETY-RELATED FUNCTIONS	Line A	USE COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS
	A1 Maintain safe work environment		
	A2 Apply OHS Regulations and WorkSafeBC standards		
	A3 Apply WHMIS		
	A4 Use personal protective equipment		
	A5 Use fire safety procedures		
Line B	USE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT	Line B	USE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT
	B1 Use hand tools		
	B2 Use power tools		
	B3 Use access and lifting equipment		
	B4 Use stilts		
	B5 Use mechanical taping and finishing tools		B5 Use mechanical taping and finishing tools
HL1 ← CL2	B6 Use texture sprayers		
			B7 Use airless paint machines
Line C	PERFORM COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS	Line C	PERFORM COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS
NEW	C1 Use communication and mentoring techniques	NEW	C1 Use communication and mentoring techniques
	C2 Use trade terminology		
	C3 Use trade mathematics		C3 Use trade mathematics
		CL1 → HL1/HL2	C4 Read drawings and specifications
	C5 Use codes, regulations, and industry standards		
	C6 Use manufacturer and supplier documentation		
	C7 Handle materials		

CL = Current Level (1, 2)
HL = Harmonized Level (1, 2)
RSOS = Red Seal Occupational Standard

Key
Black Text = No change to level
Blue Text = Content moved to lower level = HL1 ← CL2
Purple Text = Content moved to higher level = CL1 → HL2
Green Text = New content added
Red Text = Content removed

DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 1 (HL1)		DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 2 (HL2)	
	C8 Plan a project		C8 Plan a project
	C9 Prepare the job site		
Line D	INSTALL BEADS, TRIM, AND TAPE	Line D	INSTALL BEADS, TRIM, AND TAPE
	D1 Prepare areas for beading and taping		D1 Prepare areas for beading and taping
	D2 Attach beads and trim		D2 Attach beads and trim
	D3 Select tape		
HL1 ← CL1/CL2	D4 Apply tape by hand		
	D5 Apply tape by machine		D5 Apply tape by machine
Line E	FILL DRYWALL	Line E	FILL DRYWALL
	E1 Select filling compounds		
HL1 ← CL1/CL2	E2 Mix compounds		
	E3 Apply filler by hand		E3 Apply filler by hand
	E4 Apply filler by machine		E4 Apply filler by machine
	E5 Perform sanding processes		E5 Perform sanding processes
HL1 ← CL1/CL2	E6 Resolve filler problems		
HL1 ← CL1/CL2	E7 Use fast-set materials		
			E8 Apply Level 5 finish
Line F	REPAIR SURFACES	Line F	REPAIR SURFACES
		CL1 → HL2	F1 Troubleshoot and repair problems
		CL1 → HL2	F2 Repair drywall
		NEW	F3 Repair plaster and restore mouldings
	F4 Apply texture and repair textured surfaces		F4 Apply texture and repair textured surfaces

CL = Current Level (1, 2)
HL = Harmonized Level (1, 2)
RSOS = Red Seal Occupational Standard

Key
Black Text = No change to level
Blue Text = Content moved to lower level = HL1 ← CL2
Purple Text = Content moved to higher level = CL1 → HL2
Green Text = New content added
Red Text = Content removed

Details – Competency Migration

This chart shows where content from the Current Drywall Finisher program (CL) moved to in the Harmonized Drywall Finisher and Plasterer program (HL) and includes details of content that was moved or split across levels.

DRYWALL FINISHER CURRENT LEVEL 1 (CL1) to DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 1 (HL1)

DRYWALL FINISHER CURRENT LEVEL 1 (CL1)	DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 1 (HL1)	MIGRATION	DETAILS
Line A - USE SAFE WORK PRACTICES	Line A - PERFORM SAFETY-RELATED FUNCTIONS		
A1 - Control Workplace Hazards	A1 - Maintain safe work environment		
A2 - Locate OHS Regulations and WCB Standards	A2 - Apply OHS Regulations and WorkSafeBC standards		
A3 - Use WHMIS	A3 - Apply WHMIS		New Achievement Criteria.
A4 - Use Personal Protective Equipment	A4 - Use personal protective equipment		New Achievement Criteria.
A5 - Use Fire Safety Procedures	A5 - Use fire safety procedures		
A6 - Attain First Aid Level 1 Certification	A2 - Apply OHS Regulations and WorkSafeBC standards		Content moved to A2 learning task 6.
Line B - USE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT	Line B - USE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT		
B1 - Use Hand Tools	B1 - Use hand tools		
B2 - Use Power Tools	B2 - Use power tools		
B3 - Use Ladders, Scaffolds and Lifts	B3 - Use access and lifting equipment		
B4 - Use Stilts	B4 - Use stilts		
B5 - Use Mechanical Taping and Finishing Machines	B5 - Use mechanical taping and finishing tools		
Line C - ORGANIZE WORK	Line A - PERFORM SAFETY-RELATED FUNCTIONS Line C - PERFORM COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS		
C1 - Describe the Trade	C1 - Use communication and mentoring techniques C2 - Use trade terminology		
C2 - Use Mathematics	C3 - Use trade mathematics		
C3 - Read Drawings and Specifications	C8 - Plan a project	CL1 → HL1/HL2	Introductory content remains in HL1 C8. Advanced content moved to HL2 C4.

Key

- CL = Current Level (1, 2)

HL = Harmonized Level (1, 2)

RSOS = Red Seal Occupational Standard
- Black Text = No change to level

Blue Text = Content moved to lower level = HL1 ← CL2

Purple Text = Content moved to higher level = CL1 → HL2

Green Text = New content added

Red Text = Content removed

DRYWALL FINISHER CURRENT LEVEL 1 (CL1)	DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 1 (HL1)	MIGRATION	DETAILS
C4 - Use Codes, Regulations and Standards	C5 - Use codes, regulations, and industry standards		
C5 - Use Manufacturer and Supplier Documentation	C6 - Use manufacturer and supplier documentation		
C6 - Handle Materials	C7 - Handle materials		Achievement Criteria removed.
C7 - Plan a Project	C8 - Plan a project		
C8 - Prepare the Job Site	C9 - Prepare the job site		
C9 - Identify Mould Issues	A1 - Maintain safe work environment		Content moved to HL1 A1 Learning Task 1.
Line D - INSTALL BEADS AND TRIM	Line D - INSTALL BEADS, TRIM, AND TAPE		
D1 - Prepare Areas for Beading	D1 - Prepare areas for beading and taping		
D2 - Attach Beads and Trim	D2 - Attach beads and trim		
Line E - APPLY TAPE	Line D - INSTALL BEADS, TRIM, AND TAPE		
E1 - Prepare Walls for Taping	D1 - Prepare areas for beading and taping		
E2 - Select Tape	D3 - Select tape		
E3 - Apply Tape by Hand	D4 - Apply tape by hand		
E4 - Apply Tape by Machine	D5 - Apply tape by machine		Achievement Criteria removed.
Line F - FILL DRYWALL	Line E - FILL DRYWALL		
F1 - Select Filling Compounds	E1 - Select filling compounds		Achievement Criteria removed.
F2 - Mix Compounds	E2 - Mix compounds	HL1 ← CL1/CL2	Repeated content removed from HL2.
F3 - Apply Filler by Hand	E3 - Apply filler by hand		
F4 - Apply Filler by Machine	E4 - Apply filler by machine		Achievement Criteria removed.
F5 - Finish Filler	E5 - Perform sanding processes		
F6 - Resolve Filler Problems	E6 - Resolve filler problems	HL1 ← CL1/CL2	Describing board content moved from CL2 to HL1. Repeated content removed from HL2.
F7 - Use Fast-set Materials	E7 - Use fast-set materials	HL1 ← CL1/CL2	Application content moved from CL2 to HL1. Review content removed from HL2. Achievement Criteria removed.
Line G - APPLY TEXTURING	Line F - REPAIR SURFACES		
G1 - Seal and Prime Surfaces	F4 - Apply texture and repair textured surfaces		Sealing and priming surfaces moved as part of texture application and repair.
Line H - REPAIR SURFACES	Line F - REPAIR SURFACES		

CL = Current Level (1, 2)
HL = Harmonized Level (1, 2)
RSOS = Red Seal Occupational Standard

Key
Black Text = No change to level
Blue Text = Content moved to lower level = HL1 ← CL2
Purple Text = Content moved to higher level = CL1 → HL2
Green Text = New content added
Red Text = Content removed

DRYWALL FINISHER CURRENT LEVEL 1 (CL1)	DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 1 (HL1)	MIGRATION	DETAILS
H1 - Troubleshoot and Repair Problems	F1 - Troubleshoot and repair problems	CL1 → HL2	
H2 - Seal Stains	F2 - Repair drywall	CL1 → HL2	Sealing stains merged as part of repairing drywall. HL2 F2 learning tasks 2 and 3.
H3 - Repair Drywall	F2 - Repair drywall	CL1 → HL2	
	NEW COMPETENCIES ADDED TO LEVEL 1		
	Line B – USE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT		
	B6 – Use texture sprayers	HL1 ← CL2	
	Line C – PERFORM COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS		
	C1 - Use communication and mentoring techniques		New content about the role of the apprentice, mentor, and inclusive communication added.

This is the end of the DRYWALL FINISHER Current Level 1 to DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER Harmonized Level 1 comparative.
The DRYWALL FINISHER Current Level 2 to DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER Harmonized Level 2 comparative begins on the next page.

Key

CL = Current Level (1, 2)
HL = Harmonized Level (1, 2)
RSOS = Red Seal Occupational Standard

Black Text = No change to level
Blue Text = Content moved to lower level = HL1 ← CL2
Purple Text = Content moved to higher level = CL1 → HL2
Green Text = New content added
Red Text = Content removed

DRYWALL FINISHER Current Level 2 (CL2) to DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER Harmonized Level 2 (HL2)

DRYWALL FINISHER CURRENT LEVEL 2 (CL2)	DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 2 (HL2)	MIGRATION	DETAILS
Line B - USE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT	Line B - USE TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT		
B5 - Use Mechanical Taping and Finishing Machines	B5 - Use mechanical taping and finishing tools		
B6 - Use Texture Sprayers		HL1 ← CL2	HL1 B6 - Use texture sprayers
B7 - Use Airless Paint Machines	B7 - Use airless paint machines		
Line C - ORGANIZE WORK	Line C - PERFORM COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS		
C2 - Use Mathematics	C3 - Use trade mathematics		
C7 - Plan a Project	C8 - Plan a project		
Line D - INSTALL BEADS AND TRIM	Line D - INSTALL BEADS, TRIM, AND TAPE		
D1 - Prepare Areas for Beading	D1 - Prepare areas for beading and taping		Achievement Criteria removed.
D2 - Attach Beads and Trim	D2 - Attach beads and trim		
Line E - APPLY TAPE	Line D - INSTALL BEADS, TRIM, AND TAPE		
E1 - Prepare Walls for Taping	D1 - Prepare areas for beading and taping		Repeated Achievement Criteria removed. Achievement Criteria in HL1.
E3 - Apply Tape by Hand	D4 - Apply tape by hand		Repeated Achievement Criteria removed. Achievement Criteria in HL1.
E4 - Apply Tape by Machine	D5 - Apply tape by machine		
Line F - FILL DRYWALL	Line E - FILL DRYWALL		
F2 - Mix Compounds		HL1 ← CL1/CL2	Repeated content removed from Level 2.
F3 - Apply Filler by Hand	E3 - Apply filler by hand		
F4 - Apply Filler by Machine	E4 - Apply filler by machine		
F5 - Finish Filler	E5 - Perform sanding processes		
F6 - Resolve Filler Problems		HL1 ← CL1/CL2	Describing board content moved from CL2 to HL1. Repeated content removed from HL2.
F7 - Use Fast-set Materials		HL1 ← CL1/CL2	Application content moved to HL1 E7. Review content removed from HL2. Achievement Criteria removed.
F8 - Apply Level 5 Finish	E8 - Apply Level 5 finish		

Key

CL = Current Level (1, 2)
HL = Harmonized Level (1, 2)
RSOS = Red Seal Occupational Standard

Black Text = No change to level
Blue Text = Content moved to lower level = HL1 ← CL2
Purple Text = Content moved to higher level = CL1 → HL2
Green Text = New content added
Red Text = Content removed

DRYWALL FINISHER CURRENT LEVEL 2 (CL2)	DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER HARMONIZED LEVEL 2 (HL2)	MIGRATION	DETAILS
Line G - APPLY TEXTURING	Line C - PERFORM COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS Line F - REPAIR SURFACES		
G1 - Seal and Prime Surfaces		HL1 ← CL2	CL2 G4 moved to HL1 F4 learning task 3. Achievement Criteria removed.
G2 - Select Texture Materials	F4 - Apply texture and repair textured surfaces		
G3 - Apply Basic Hand Texture	F4 - Apply texture and repair textured surfaces		Achievement Criteria removed.
G4 - Apply Basic Machine Texture		HL1 ← CL2	CL2 G4 moved to HL1 F4 learning task 5. Achievement Criteria removed.
G5 - Apply Specialty Layout Patterns	C3 - Use trade mathematics		HL2 C3 Learning tasks 3-4.
Line H - REPAIR SURFACES	Line F - REPAIR SURFACES		
H1 - Troubleshoot and Repair Problems	F1 - Troubleshoot and repair problems		
H2 - Seal Stains	F2 - Repair drywall		
H3 - Repair Drywall	F2 - Repair drywall		Achievement Criteria removed.
H4 - Repair Plaster	F3 - Repair plaster and restore moulding		Repair plaster content remains. New content about restoring moulding added.
H5 - Repair Textured Surfaces	F4 - Apply texture and repair textured surfaces		Achievement Criteria removed.
	NEW COMPETENCIES ADDED TO LEVEL 2		
	Line C - PERFORM COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS		
	C1 - Use communication and mentoring techniques		New content about mentoring skills and workplace inclusion added.
	C4 - Read drawings and specifications	CL1 → HL1/HL2	Introductory content remains in Level 1 C8. Advanced content moved to Level 2 C4.

This is the end of the DRYWALL FINISHER Current Level 2 to DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER Harmonized Level 2 comparative.