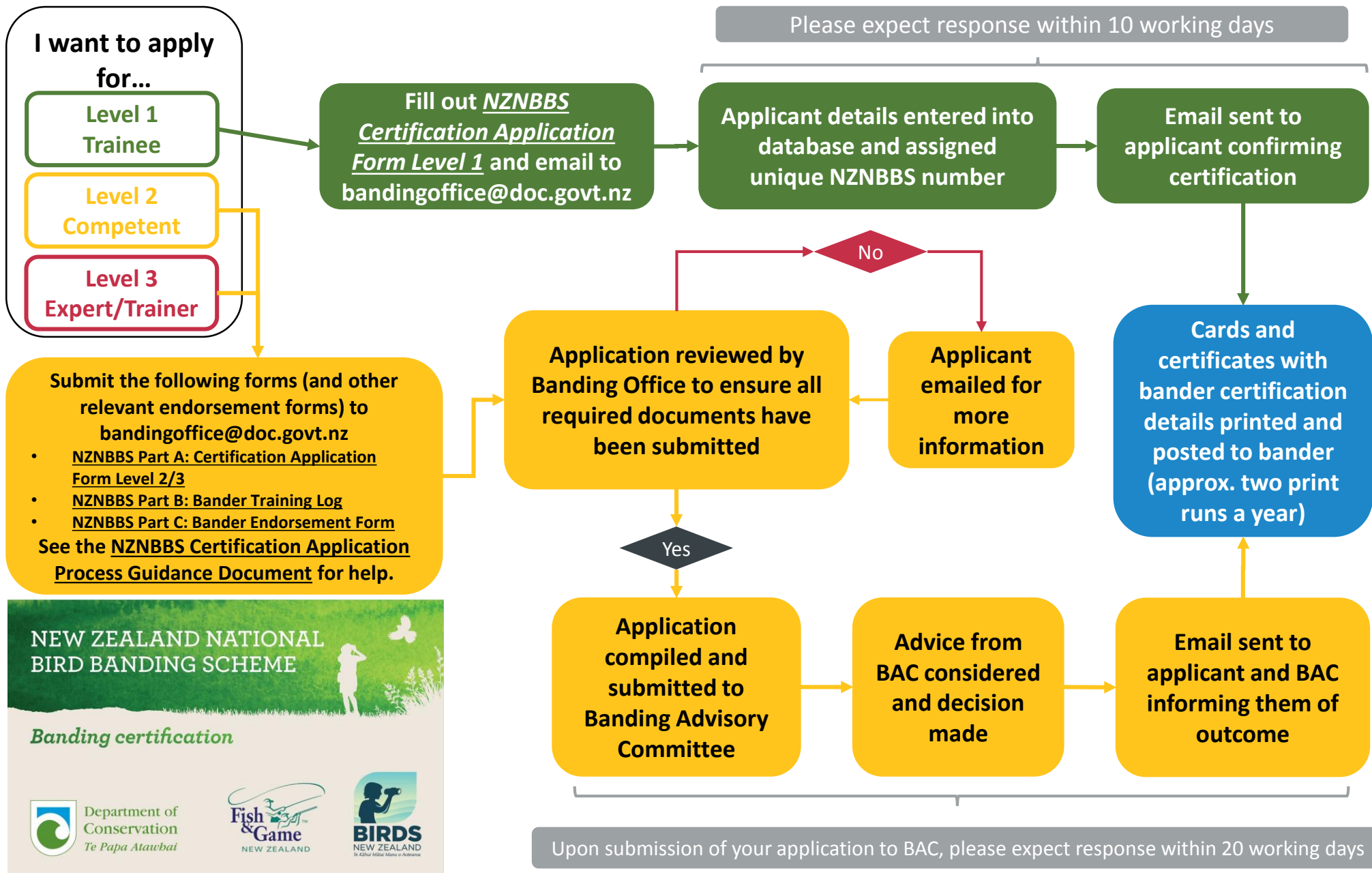


NZNBBS Certification Application Process



NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL
BIRD BANDING SCHEME

Banding certification



NZNBBS Certification System

Level 1 - trainee

Level 1 trainees may only operate under the *direct* supervision of a Level 3 operator certified for the species group or capture method.

Level 1 operators are required to log their capture, marking and handling experience using the NZNBBS training log, to be signed by the Level 3 trainer.

Level 2 - competent

Level 2 operators are considered competent to capture/mark birds independently, but still need to operate under the general supervision of a Level 3 operator in whose name bird bands will be issued. The Level 3 bander retains responsibility for all capturing and marking conducted by the Level 2 operator. Level 2 operators are required to log their capture, marking and handling experience using the NZNBBS training log.

Level 3 – expert / trainer

Level 3 operators have extensive experience for the species and capture methods listed on their certificate. Responsibilities include supervising Level 2 and training Level 1 operators, signing training logs, ordering bands, [submitting banding schedules](#), overseeing projects, and ensuring that the necessary Wildlife Act Authorisation / permits are in place.

An operator can be certified at different levels for different species groups with additional restrictions, for example: L3 parrots; L3* passerines (*restricted to robins); L2* transponder insertion (*whio); L2 waterfowl; L3 mist-netting; L1 for all other categories

Please note that certification cannot be obtained through attending a banding course; rather, you need an accumulation of experience over time gained under a Level 3 (expert, trainer) operator. Short banding courses can teach specific skills, but it can take months or even years to gain the necessary experience for higher level certification.

In order to move from one level to the next, the applicant needs to provide evidence of competency, as well as letters of endorsement from Level 3 trainers. The Banding Advisory Committee (panel of experts) assesses applications on a monthly basis and provides advice to the Banding Officer on certification levels to be awarded.

Requirements for capturing, marking and sampling of birds in New Zealand:

- **Competency:** [NZNBBS Certification](#): managed by the Department of Conservation [Banding Office](#)
 - All banders (including trainees) need to be registered with the NZNBBS.
 - Certification levels for different species groups and capture methods are granted based on evidence of competency.
- **Permission:** [Wildlife Act Authority](#) (WAA): managed by the Department of Conservation [Permissions Team](#)
- The standards and details of “best practice” as outlined in the NZNBBS Bird Bander’s Manual and other relevant Best Practice Guidelines are to be followed.