



Australian Government

AHCARB316 Perform pruning operations

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 5.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to perform corrective and remedial pruning operations to trees either from the ground or whilst working at height.

The unit applies to individuals who work in arboriculture under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources and for solving problems.

The arboriculture industry requires that all pruning operations work is undertaken according to preferred industry practices (as outlined in the Companion Volume).

Legislation, regulations and by-laws relating to the treatment and removal of trees apply in some states and territories.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Arboriculture (ARB)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Prepare for pruning operations	1.1 Receive and confirm instructions with supervisor 1.2 Confirm access to site and location of trees and work zones 1.3 Determine type, extent and limit of pruning work in accordance with specifications, scope of works and client brief 1.4 Undertake a site-specific job safety analysis (JSA) and record and

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<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	implement site-specific control measures 1.5 Communicate with work team using agreed methods according to works undertaken and site and environmental conditions
2. Prepare tools, equipment and work environment	2.1 Select tools and equipment for pruning work 2.2 Consider access and impact of selected pruning tools and equipment on tree 2.3 Carry out pre-operational and safety checks on pruning tools and equipment 2.4 Select, check and use personal protective equipment 2.5 Disinfect pruning equipment during tree work according to hygiene and biosecurity procedures and tree assessment outcomes 2.6 Implement workplace health, safety, site, environmental and traffic control measures according to JSA
3. Determine tree parts to be removed and plan pruning operations	3.1 Investigate tree canopy shape, structure and defects to determine pruning plan 3.2 Assess tree structure for stem co-dominance and branch attachment to determine options for pruning cut procedure 3.3 Identify tree part requiring removal and select pruning procedure and location of cut from identified pruning cut options
4. Perform pruning operations	4.1 Prepare pruning equipment to ensure cuts are clean 4.2 Use pruning tools to make pruning cuts according to industry standards and manufacturer operating instructions 4.3 Make cuts from a secure body position with awareness of extant tree hazards 4.4 Maintain awareness of power line proximity, safe approach distances and clearances 4.5 Select pruning cuts for crown maintenance or crown modification according to scope of works 4.6 Perform pre-cutting techniques to avoid splitting or tearing of the stem and bark 4.7 Perform final cut according to the principles of compartmentalisation of decay in trees (CODIT) and current industry standards 4.8 Ensure bark at edge of all pruning cuts remains firmly attached

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
5. Improve pruning quality	5.1 Review previous pruning cuts to determine tree response to pruning activities 5.2 Assess tree response to previous pruning methods and compare with current work practice 5.3 Seek advice from consulting arborists on quality of current pruning work practice 5.4 Identify substandard current pruning cuts and rectify according to advice
6. Complete pruning operations	6.1 Drop or lower pruned material into designated drop zone 6.2 Clean, maintain and store tools and equipment 6.3 Collect and dispose of pruned material according to environmental procedures 6.4 Maintain pruning records according to workplace procedures

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Writing	Accurately complete organisational documents, including job safety analysis, using clear language, correct spelling, grammar and industry terminology

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCARB316 Perform pruning operations	AHCARB303 Perform pruning operations	Prerequisite units removed Elements and performance criteria clarified	Equivalent

		Foundation skills added Assessment requirements updated	
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Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>