



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

CUVOPA202A Handle and store rough and cut opal

Release: 1

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Modification History

Version	Comments
CUVOPA202A	This version first released with <i>CUV11 Visual Arts, Craft and Design Training Package version 1.0</i>

Unit Descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to handle and store rough and cut opal in a manner that minimises damage and loss.

Application of the Unit

This unit requires the application of analytical and manual skills needed in handling rough and cut opal, documenting all details of the opal and putting in place appropriate procedures to control stock and prevent accidental loss, theft or damage to the gems. It may be applied in a range of environments from cutting and polishing to retailing, wholesaling, selling on the internet or mining.

Where appropriate the outcomes of this unit could be contextualised to apply to other gemstones.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

No licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of endorsement.

Pre-Requisites

Not applicable.

Employability Skills Information

This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Element	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.</i>

Elements and Performance Criteria

1. Work with opal	1.1 Document source, origin and <i>types of rough opal</i> 1.2 Identify <i>appropriate storage conditions and locations</i> for various types and classes of opal 1.3 Identify <i>ways in which damage might occur</i> to rough and cut opal and take preventative measures 1.4 Grade opals if required 1.5 Weigh and bag opals and store appropriately
2. Use processes that minimise loss and theft	2.1 Identify <i>areas of risk</i> and evaluate process employed for handling and processing gems 2.2 Determine <i>strategies for minimising risk and safeguarding</i> opals 2.3 Implement risk minimisation strategy 2.4 Document all facts about the opals and all procedures thoroughly
3. Control stock	3.1 Identify an appropriate <i>stock control system</i> 3.2 Follow <i>stock</i> control procedures to monitor and manage stock 3.3 Maintain records of stock

Required Skills and Knowledge

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- communication skills to document key information
- critical thinking and analytical skills to assess areas of risk
- literacy skills to document operational information
- planning and organising skills to organise storage and stock control
- problem-solving skills to monitor situations and adjust actions accordingly
- numeracy skills to use stock control systems and make basic calculations
- technical skills to use appropriate handling and storage.

Required knowledge

- origin of the types and forms of opal
- types of cutting styles
- procedures for handling and storing opal
- areas of risk of theft.

Evidence Guide

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Overview of assessment	
Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit	<p>Evidence of the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify, explain and apply safe and appropriate procedures for the handling and storage of rough or cut and polished opal • evaluate the areas where there is risk of loss and theft and follow risk minimising procedures.
Context of and specific resources for assessment	<p>Assessment must ensure access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • various samples of rough and cut opal • bags • recording materials • scales • storage locations.
Method of assessment	<p>A range of assessment methods should be used to assess practical skills and knowledge. The following examples are appropriate for this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observation of processes and procedures • oral and/or written questioning of underpinning knowledge and skills • evaluation of the final product • review of portfolios of evidence • review of third-party workplace reports of on-the-job performance by candidate. <p>Assessment methods should closely reflect workplace demands (e.g. literacy) and the needs of particular groups (e.g. people with disabilities, and people who may have literacy or numeracy difficulties, such as speakers of languages other than English, remote communities and those with interrupted schooling).</p>
Guidance information for assessment	<p>Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the industry sector workplace and job role is recommended.</p>

Range Statement

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

<i>Types of rough opal</i> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • composite natural opal – doublets, triplets, mosaic and chip opals • natural opal type 1 – opal in one piece in its natural state apart from cutting and polishing • natural opal type 2 – opal naturally attached to the host rock – boulder opal • natural opal type 3 – opal intimately diffused as infilling in pores or between the grains of the host rock; matrix opal • varieties of opal: (N1 to N9 represents gradation from black to white in approximately 10% intervals) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • black – opal which shows a play of colour within or on a black or very dark body tone (N1, N2, N3, N4) • dark – opal which shows a play of colour within or on a dark body tone (N5, N6) • light – opal which shows a play of colour within or on a light body tone (N7, N8, N9).
<i>Appropriate storage conditions and locations</i> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • depending on the value: in safe or in designated locked cupboard • display boxes and pockets • display cases • individually bagged • humidified atmosphere • safes and deposit boxes.
<i>Ways in which damage might occur</i> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dehydration • exposure to halogen lights • extremes of temperature • general wear and tear • immersion in water • rough handling • surface damage and scratching.
<i>Preventative measures</i> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • humidifying atmosphere • keeping in bags.
<i>Areas of risk</i> may	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of documentation

include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• misplacement• theft.
<i>Strategies for minimising risk and safeguarding opal</i> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• alarm systems• banks (deposit boxes)• display cases• insurance• lighting• photographing• safes• scanning• security locks• systematic approach to storage and handling• thorough recording and documenting• use of standard procedures for handling, storage and documentation.
<i>Stock control system</i> may be:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• manual or electronic• very simple in the case of small businesses.
<i>Stock</i> may be:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cutting and polishing consumables• equipment for production cutting• rough or cut opal.

Unit Sector(s)

Opal cutting and polishing