



Australian Government

MSL946001 Implement and monitor WHS and environmental management systems

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSL946001A Implement and monitor WHS and environmental management systems

Application

This unit of competency covers the ability to implement and monitor the work health and safety (WHS) and environmental management systems for a work group or laboratory, within the scope of a 'head officer's' responsibilities as defined in AS/NZS 2243 Set: 2006 Safety in laboratories. Where the WHS management system is already established then this unit of competency may apply to the review of the system.

The unit of competency is applicable to personnel in a senior technician or laboratory supervisor role. Personnel work in accordance with work instructions and standard operating procedures (SOPs) which incorporate all relevant aspects of WHS legislation and the codes, guidelines, regulations and Australian standards applying to environmental hazards and dangerous goods. This unit assumes that expert WHS and environmental advice is available, as required, either internal or external to the workplace.

While no specific licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication, laboratory operations are governed by relevant legislation, regulations and/or external accreditation requirements. Local requirements should be checked.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Work health and safety

Unit Sector

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1	Implement requirements for the WHS and environmental management systems	1.1	Ensure WHS and environmental responsibilities and duties are documented and accountability processes are in place
		1.2	Ensure WHS and environmental policies and procedures are documented and that documents are accessible to all relevant personnel
		1.3	Ensure implications of any proposed changes to the WHS and environmental management systems are identified and addressed
		1.4	Recognise limits of own professional expertise and consult specialists as necessary
2	Implement and maintain participative arrangements for the management of WHS and the environment	2.1	Implement and maintain appropriate participative processes with employees and their representatives in accordance with relevant WHS legislation and industry standards
		2.2	Provide information to employees in a format that is readily accessible and understandable
		2.3	Promptly and effectively deal with and resolve issues raised through participation and consultation
		2.4	Provide information about the outcomes of participation and consultation to employees
3	Implement and maintain WHS and environmental risk management processes	3.1	Ensure hazard, incident and injury reporting and investigation processes are in place to meet prevention and legislative requirements
		3.2	Implement a process of hazard identification and risk assessment
		3.3	Ensure risk controls and hazard specific procedures for risk control comply with legislation and the hierarchy of

			control
4	Implement and maintain an WHS and environmental training program	4.1	Conduct a training needs assessment for the work group that takes account of legislative requirements, internal policies and procedures, skills of workgroup and risk control requirements
		4.2	Consult with relevant WHS and environment specialists about training program
		4.3	Develop and implement a training program to identify and fulfil employees' WHS and environmental training needs
5	Implement and maintain a system for records	5.1	Identify and address the legal requirements for record keeping
		5.2	Identify and access sources of WHS and environmental information
		5.3	Ensure that records are accurately completed, collected and stored
6	Identify areas for systems improvement	6.1	Collect data and information to evaluate management systems
		6.2	Analyse data and information to identify areas for improvement
		6.3	Consult with stakeholders, key personnel and expert advisors
		6.4	Document and communicate outcomes of analysis to key personnel and stakeholders in an easily understood format
		6.5	Recognise limits of own expertise and seek appropriate advice
7	Initiate and maintain systems	7.1	Determine priorities in consultation with stakeholders
		7.2	Develop an WHS and environmental plan in

improvements

consultation with stakeholders

- 7.3 Identify and source resources required for implementation of plan
- 7.4 Monitor achievement against plan
- 7.5 Monitor effectiveness of modifications to the management systems on an ongoing basis in consultation with stakeholders

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance.

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

This field allows for different work environments and conditions that may affect performance. Essential operating conditions that may be present (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) are included.

Standards, codes, procedures and/or workplace requirements

Standards, codes, procedures and/or workplace requirements include the latest version of one or more of:

- *AS/NZS 2243 Set:2006 Safety in laboratories*
- other Australian, national and international standards, guidelines and codes covering WHS; laboratory design and construction; occupational protective equipment; labelling of workplace substances; storage, handling and transport of dangerous goods; environmental management; physical containment levels and facility types
- industry specific codes, regulations and guidelines, such as Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) Codes of Practice; Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) Export Control (Orders) Regulations and Import Guidelines, gene technology regulations, and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Guidelines

WHS and environmental workplace policies, procedures and programs

WHS and environmental workplace policies, procedures and programs include, but are not limited to, one or more of:

- procedures for handling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials, hazardous goods manifest and substance register
- waste minimisation, recycling, by-product collection and waste disposal
- purchase and maintenance of safety-related supplies and equipment
- minimisation of environmental threats
- emergency, fire and environmental incident response procedures
- selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- standard operating procedures (SOPs), safe work instructions, laboratory manuals, operator's manuals and manufacturers' operating manuals, maintenance schedules, formulas and batch sheets, and contractor and employee handbooks
- immunisation registers for employees at risk, monitoring and appropriate tasking of personnel with possible infections
- consultation and issue resolution procedures

WHS and environmental issues

WHS and environmental issues include, but are not limited to, one or more of:

- identification of hazards
- assessment of risk and decisions about measures to reduce/control risk
- implementation of controls and associated problems
- investigation of injury and incidents, hazards not otherwise addressed
- clarification of policies or procedures

Stakeholders

Stakeholders include one or more of:

- managers, supervisors, laboratory and production personnel
- WHS committees, health and safety and other employee representatives
- external WHS agencies
- the community, including workers' families

Participative processes with employees and their representatives

Participative processes with employees and their representatives include one or more of:

- consultations with workers and committees (such as WHS and planning)
- employee and supervisor involvement in WHS activities, such as inspections, audits and risk assessments
- procedures for reporting hazards and raising and addressing WHS issues
- identification of hazards, assessment of level of risk, implementation of risk control measures and review of their effectiveness
- review of WHS records and statistics, injury and incident investigations
- job safety analysis (JSA), development/revision of policies and procedures
- audits and workplace inspections, and review of registers of hazardous substances and dangerous goods

Hazard identification processes

Hazard identification processes include one or more of:

- review of hazard and incident reports and workplace inspections
- pre-purchase risk assessments
- review of relevant internal documentation, including material

safety data sheets (MSDS), manufacturer manuals and minutes of meetings

- review of legislation, codes of practice, standards and guidelines
- review of online and printed WHS publications, journals and newsletters produced by WHS regulators, industry bodies

Risk assessment

Risk assessment includes:

- analysing the risk to identify factors influencing the risk and the range of potential consequences
- assessing the effectiveness of existing controls, the likelihood of each consequence and combining these to obtain a level of risk
- comparing the determined risk with pre-established criteria for tolerance (or as low as reasonably achievable) and ranking risks requiring control

Data for evaluation of the management systems

Data for evaluation of the management systems includes one or more of:

- hazard, incident and injury reports
- workplace inspections
- audit reports
- formal and informal input of employees

WHS and environmental management requirements

WHS and environmental management requirements include:

- complying with WHS and environmental management requirements at all times, which may be imposed through state/territory or federal legislation. These requirements must not be compromised at any time
- applying standard precautions relating to the potentially hazardous nature of samples
- accessing and applying current industry understanding of infection control issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and State and Territory Departments of Health, where relevant

Unit Mapping Information

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Links

MSA Training Package Implementation Guides - <http://mskills.org.au/training-packages/info/>