



**Australian Government**

# **MSL973005 Assist with fieldwork**

**Release: 1**

## MSL973005 Assist with fieldwork

### Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSL973005A Assist with fieldwork

### Application

This unit of competency describes the ability to perform tasks associated with the organisation of fieldwork and field surveys. It also covers basic field survival skills and collection of samples in the field. This unit of competency does not include gaining clearance for animal trapping, tagging, keeping or experimentation. It does not cover animal handling techniques.

This unit of competency is applicable to laboratory and field assistants working in the environmental, mining, construction materials testing and rural industry sectors.

Personnel covered by this unit of competency are supervised by scientific or technical officers. Though a supervisor may not always actually be present, the individual will follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) that clearly describe the permitted scope of practice.

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

Testing

### Unit Sector

### Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

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

1	<b>Assist with organisation of fieldwork</b>	1.1	Purchase supplies and equipment as specified by senior staff
		1.2	Assemble supplies and equipment and check against inventory

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|---|--|-----|---|
|   |  | 1.3 | Pack supplies and equipment appropriately for safe transport  |
| 2 | <b>Support field operations</b>                | 2.1 | Check unpacked items against inventory  |
|   |  | 2.2 | Store supplies and equipment as specified   |
|   |  | 2.3 | Restock supplies as necessary   |
|   |  | 2.4 | Collect and/or dispose of waste in accordance with workplace and environmental requirements                         |
| 3 | <b>Assist with field activities</b>            | 3.1 | Assemble equipment and materials for fieldwork as directed  |
|   |  | 3.2 | Collect samples in accordance with workplace procedures, animal care and ethics, and other legislative requirements |
|   |  | 3.3 | Store samples in accordance with special requirements for continued wellbeing, viability or integrity of sample     |
|   |  | 3.4 | Perform simple field measurements as directed   |
|   |  | 3.5 | Collect and maintain records of site data as directed   |
| 4 | <b>Demonstrate basic field survival skills</b> | 4.1 | Follow specified safety procedures  |
|   |  | 4.2 | Follow specified survival procedures in the event of emergencies and accidents                                      |
|   |  | 4.3 | Wear suitable clothing as protection against solar radiation, extreme temperatures and impact injury                |
| 5 | <b>Assist with the completion of fieldwork</b> | 5.1 | Pack supplies, equipment and samples appropriately for safe return to workplace                                     |
|   |  | 5.2 | Check and clean used equipment to prevent deterioration and contamination   |
|   |  | 5.3 | Check that the condition of vehicles, equipment and materials comply with environmental/quarantine                  |

- requirements for preventing transfer of pests
- 5.4 Return supplies and equipment to storage at workplace location
  - 5.5 Conduct a stocktake of equipment and supplies for replenishment where required
  - 5.6 Assist with the dispatch of collected samples for laboratory analysis, as necessary

## **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:

- Australian, national and international standards, guidelines and codes covering the requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories; laboratory safety; occupational protective equipment; labelling of workplace substances; storage, handling and transport of dangerous goods; and environmental management
- national work health and safety (WHS) standards and codes of practice, and national environmental protection measures
- industry specific codes, regulations and guidelines, such as animal welfare legislation and codes of practice; Australian Dangerous Goods Code, and Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) Codes of Practice
- workplace documents, such as SOPs; data quality procedures; equipment manuals and warranties, supplier catalogue and handbooks, calibration and maintenance schedules, material safety data sheets (MSDS), safety procedures, first aid and survival manuals, incident/accident/injury report forms, survey/laboratory schedules, workplace recording and reporting procedures, waste minimisation and safe disposal procedures, and cleaning/hygiene requirements
- fieldwork instructions, basic sampling procedures (labelling, preparation, storage, transport and disposal), basic test procedures (validated and authorised), specific environmental standards and site-specific requirements

### **Safety and survival procedures**

Safety and survival procedures include, but are not limited to, one or more of:

- using personal protective equipment (PPE), including sunscreen, hats, safety glasses, gloves, safety boots and hearing protection
- handling, labelling and storing hazardous material and equipment in accordance with labels, MSDS, manufacturer instructions and workplace procedures and regulations
- regular cleaning and/or decontamination of equipment
- using two-way radio and satellite phone and a regular communication schedule
- map reading, use of compass and global positioning system (GPS)

- 'stay with vehicle' in the event of accident or emergency

### **WHS and environmental management requirements**

WHS and environmental management requirements:

- 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

## **Unit Mapping Information**

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## **Links**

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