



Australian Government

MSS024002 Implement environmental management plans and procedures

Release: 1

MSS024002 Implement environmental management plans and procedures

Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSS024002A Implement environmental management plans and procedures

Application

This unit of competency covers the ability to apply environmental management plans and procedures to minimise the environmental impact of work activities and ensure legislative compliance. Personnel are required to identify environmental requirements in everyday work activities, issues and risks for projects and/or sites, recognise environmental incidents and apply the specified procedures or actions to control and minimise their impacts.

This unit of competency is applicable to environmental technicians working in a range of industry sectors, such as environmental monitoring, sampling and field testing (e.g. air, water, soil and noise); geotechnical services; natural resource management; occupational hygiene monitoring (e.g. air, noise and radiation); groundwater and clean water; water treatment, storm and wastewater management; solid and hazardous waste management; site remediation; and resource efficiency (e.g. energy, water and waste auditing).

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Compliance

Unit Sector

Environmental

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

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

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Identify environmental management obligations | <p>1.1 Identify legislative, regulatory and licensing requirements that apply to work activities.</p> <p>1.2 Access the organisation's environmental management plans that apply to specific sites and projects.</p> <p>1.3 Confirm scope of responsibility for achieving environmental outcomes for specific sites and projects.</p> <p>1.4 Confirm reporting requirements.</p> |
| 2 | Implement specified management plans and procedures | <p>2.1 Review site/project history and environmental management issues, objectives and procedures that have been documented for specific sites and projects.</p> <p>2.2 Plan work, incorporating appropriate control measures, to minimise identified risks and achieve specified environmental outcomes.</p> <p>2.3 Undertake all work activities safely and in accordance with environmental requirements.</p> |
| 3 | Respond to potential/actual environmental issues and incidents | <p>3.1 Recognise and assess environmental issues, risks, impacts and incidents arising during work activities.</p> <p>3.2 Identify the triggers/response procedures for complaints, cultural heritage finds and other environmental incidents.</p> <p>3.3 Apply established workplace procedures for dealing with complaints, cultural/heritage finds and other environmental incidents.</p> <p>3.4 Record details of observations, assessments and any actions taken in accordance with workplace procedures.</p> <p>3.5 Notify specified personnel in accordance with organisation procedures.</p> |

- 4 **Report the application of environmental plans and procedures**
 - 4.1 Monitor the effectiveness of environmental controls relating to work activities.
 - 4.2 Complete environmental reporting requirements for specific sites and projects.
 - 4.3 Maintain relevant environmental management documentation.
 - 4.4 Identify and report opportunities for improving environmental procedures.
 - 4.5 Contribute to regular reviews of environmental management plans and procedures.

Foundation Skills

This section describes those required skills (language, literacy and numeracy) 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.

Environment includes one or more of:

- air, water and land
- natural and built resources
- flora and fauna
- humans and how they interrelate

Legislation, regulations, standards, codes, workplace procedures and requirements include the latest version of one or more of:

- federal legislation such as the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, Australian Heritage Council Act, Native Title Act and National Environmental Protection Measures
- state/territory government legislation and local government by-laws, policies, regulations and plans dealing with land use; environmental protection; cultural/heritage sites; vegetation management; nature conservation and wildlife/plant protection; water and water management; soil conservation; pollution and contaminated sites; fisheries, forestry and mining operations
- legislation, standards and codes of practice for work health and safety (WHS) and handling of dangerous goods
- Australian and international standards covering environmental management, such as AS/NZS ISO 14000 Basic Set:2007 Environmental Management Basic Set
- registration/licensing and/or accreditation requirements
- workplace environmental management plans and procedures for specific sites and/or activities (e.g. sampling, monitoring, construction and mining)
- workplace documents, such as standard operating procedures (SOPs), work schedules, recording and reporting procedures, equipment manuals and warranties; safety data sheets (SDS) and safety procedures; waste minimisation, containment, processing and safe disposal procedures

Environmental management plans include one or more of:

- aim, vision and workplace policy statement
- roles and responsibilities
- potential environmental issues
- actions to avoid, remedy and mitigate the issues
- procedures and forms to minimise and manage specific environmental impacts and risks

- quality management plans
- communication and training requirements
- monitoring, auditing and reporting requirements

Environmental issues include one or more of:

- emissions to air
- releases to, and of, water
- releases to land
- soil erosion, sedimentation and salinity
- contamination of land
- disturbance of flora and fauna, threats to sensitive species and destruction of habitat
- introduction of pests, such as weeds and fire ants
- noise and vibration
- disturbance to heritage sites or items
- generation, reuse and disposal of waste
- use of energy sources
- handling, storage, spills, or exposure involving hazards, such as chemicals and radiation

Environmental risks and impacts include one or more of:

- mismanagement of chemicals or fuel products
- mismanagement of biological agents
- land use practices
- planning deficiencies
- poor construction processes
- waste generation and disposal

Sites include one or more of:

- buildings and other infrastructure
- construction, mining, manufacturing, forestry, agricultural and maintenance sites
- bushland
- catchments, flood plains, surface/groundwater sites and drainage sites
- wetlands and marine/coastal areas

Environmental reporting requirements include one or more of:

- regular site environmental reports
- non-conformance report forms
- hazard, near miss and safety incident report forms
- environmental incident investigation report forms
- regulatory agency reports

- Environmental management documentation includes one or more of:**
- site/project history, plans, procedures, actions and checklists
 - information about applicable legislation and regulatory requirements
 - records of correspondence and complaints
 - incident reports and incident investigation reports
 - quality assurance/verification checklists
 - job hazard analyses, permits and safe work procedures
 - internal check/audit reports
 - training records
 - records to comply with permit, licence and approval conditions

- WHS requirements include:**
- compliance with relevant federal/state/territory WHS legislation at all times
 - assuming that samples are potentially hazardous and applying standard precautions
 - accessing and applying current industry understanding of infection control issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and state/territory Departments of Health, where relevant

Unit Mapping Information

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSS024002A Implement environmental management plans and procedures

Links

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