

**RTC2401A****Unit Descriptor****Unit Sector****Treat weeds**

Treat weeds

No sector assigned

**ELEMENT****PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

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| 1. Prepare to treat weeds              | 1.1 Weeds which impact on commercial crops, gardens and turf, and natural areas are recognised by common name                                  |
|  | 1.2 <b>Details</b> of the weed occurrence are recorded and reported to the supervisor  |
|  | 1.3 <b>Treatment methods</b> are selected in consultation with the supervisor  |
|  | 1.4 <b>Equipment</b> is selected and prepared for use according to enterprise guidelines and manufacturers specifications                      |
|  | 1.5 <b>Occupational Health and Safety hazards</b> are identified, <b>risks</b> assessed and reported to the supervisor                         |
| 2. Treat weeds                         | 2.1 Suitable <b>personal protective equipment</b> (PPE) is selected, used, maintained and stored   |
|  | 2.2 Treatments are prepared according to supervisor's instructions and manufacturers guidelines  |
|  | 2.3 Treatments are applied in such a way that non-target damage is minimised   |
|  | 2.4 Treatments are applied according to <b>Occupational Health and Safety</b> and <b>regulatory requirements</b>                               |
| 3. Carry out post treatment operations | 3.1 Equipment is shut down and cleaned with full consideration of <b>environmental impacts</b> and Occupational Health and Safety requirements |
|  | 3.2 Treatment waste is disposed of causing minimal environmental damage  |
|  | 3.3 <b>Records</b> are maintained according to enterprise guidelines   |

## KEY COMPETENCIES

What processes should be applied to this competency standard? There are a number of processes that are learnt throughout work and life, which are required in all jobs. They are fundamental processes and generally transferable to other work functions. Some of these are covered by the key competencies, although others may be added. The questions below highlight how these processes are applied in this competency standard. Following each question a number in brackets indicates the level to which the key competency needs to be demonstrated where 0 = not required, 1 = perform the process, 2 = perform and administer the process and 3 = perform, administer and design the process.

Key Competency	Example of Application	Performance Level
Communicating ideas and information	Relating to applying weed treatments should be discussed with other members of the work team and the supervisor	1
Collecting analysing and organising information	Relating to applying weed treatments should be discussed with other members of the work team and the supervisor	1
Planning and organising activities	Equipment, materials and work procedures for applying treatments will need to be arranged before and between work periods, and there may be some responsibility for coordinating work with others	1
Working with others and in teams	The application of treatments may involve working with other members of a team to complete the program and ensuring other activities are scheduled around the application of weed treatments	1
Using mathematical ideas and techniques	In relation to calculating rates, and areas, will be required	1
Solving problems	May be demonstrated in cases of machinery malfunctions or chemical spillage	1
Using technology	Technology may be applied in the preparation, use and maintenance of spray equipment	1

## RANGE STATEMENT

Weed details

may include

- location of weeds
- area covered by the weed
- possibility of off target damage
- potential threats that the weed may present to surrounding areas

Treatments applied

may include

- hand weeding
- herbicides
- release of biological agents
- cultivation, slashing, cutting, burning and ripping

Appropriate equipment for treatment application

may include

- backpack sprayers
- spray tanks
- fertiliser spreaders
- ladders, tractor drawn cultivation equipment, rippers
- weedicide applicators
- handsaws
- chainsaws
- brush cutters

Occupational Health and Safety hazards

may include

- use of hazardous chemicals
- use of tractors and machinery
- solar radiation
- manual handling, falls, tripping and noise

The risk of Occupational Health and Safety hazards

may affect

- workers
- equipment
- people and animals external to the workplace such as members of the public, wildlife, pets, bees, fish, birds
- the environment

Personal protective equipment (PPE) used in treatment

may include

- hat
- rubber boots
- chemical resistant overalls
- face protection
- hearing protection
- gloves
- goggles
- respirator or facemask
- sunscreen lotion

Occupational Health and Safety requirements

may include

- identifying hazards
- assessing and reporting risks
- safety procedures involved in chemical handling and use
- weather conditions, safety procedures for protecting others
- cleaning, maintaining and storing tools and equipment
- appropriate use, maintenance and storage of personal protective equipment including sun protection, drinking to avoid dehydration
- safe operation of tools and equipment
- personal hygiene and reporting problems to supervisors

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Regulatory requirements	<p>may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the use and disposal of chemicals</li><li>• record keeping</li><li>• transport of chemicals</li><li>• access to area</li><li>• use of chainsaws</li><li>• reporting accidents and dangerous goods</li></ul>
Environmental impacts	<p>may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• leaching and contamination of the water table</li><li>• soil contamination, spray drift</li><li>• damage to off target organisms</li><li>• contaminated produce</li><li>• surface run off, changes in soil structure</li></ul>
Record keeping	<p>may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• accident and dangerous occurrence reports</li><li>• name of operator</li><li>• treatments applied, rate, date, settings of equipment, weed numbers</li><li>• numbers of beneficial organisms</li></ul>
The sport and recreation industry	<p>covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• industry sectors of community recreation, fitness, outdoor recreation and sport</li><li>• significant roles played by activity organisations, industry peak bodies, professional organisations</li><li>• large volunteer base</li><li>• high turnover of volunteers</li><li>• high levels of part time and casual employment</li><li>• irregular working hours</li><li>• relatively few professional positions</li><li>• workforce employed mostly in operational positions</li><li>• mainly small business or self-employed personnel</li><li>• slow to take up technology</li><li>• over 2/3 of the sport and recreation industry have no formal/recognised qualifications</li><li>• significant reliance upon industry credentials and involvement in the activity itself</li></ul>

## EVIDENCE GUIDE

### Critical aspects of evidence to be considered

- Assessment must confirm sufficient knowledge in treating weeds
- Assessment of performance should be over a period of time covering all categories from the Range Statements applicable to the learner's environment
- In particular, assessment must confirm the ability to
  - recognised and appropriately treated common weeds
  - transfer the skills and knowledge required to treat weeds to a different work environment, eg, this could include different weed species, locations and treatment techniques

### Interdependent assessment of units

- This unit must be assessed after attainment of competency of the following unit(s)
  - Nil
- This unit must be assessed in conjunction with the following unit(s)
  - Nil
- For the purpose of integrated assessment, this unit may be assessed in conjunction with the following unit(s)
  - Nil

### Required knowledge and skills

- Required knowledge
  - Recognition of common weeds for a particular enterprise/situation
  - Weed growth characteristics
  - Different types of control measures, treatments and their principles
  - Modes of action of different chemicals
  - Equipment capability and limitations
  - Legislation relation to the use of chemicals for weed control
  - Occupational Health and Safety responsibilities of employees
  - Occupational Health and Safety legislative requirements and associated hazardous substances regulations and Codes of Practice
  - Correct wearing/fit of personal protective equipment
  - Environmental considerations when using chemicals for weed control
- Required skills
  - Read and interpret chemical labels, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), manufacturers specifications for setting up equipment, and maintain spray records
  - Prepare to treat weeds
  - Apply weed treatments
  - Carry out post treatment operations

## Resource implications

- Physical resources - assessment of this competency requires access to
  - equipment
  - personal protective equipment
  - appropriate documentation and resources normally used in the workplace
- Human resources - assessment of this competency will require human resources consistent with those outlined in the Assessment Guidelines. That is, assessors (or persons within the assessment team) should
  - be competent in this unit
  - be current in their knowledge and understanding of the industry through provision of evidence of professional activity in the relevant area
  - have attained the National Competency Standards for Assessment: BSZ401A, BSZ402A and BSZ403A

## Consistency in performance

- Competence in this unit must be assessed over a period of time in order to ensure consistency of performance over the Range Statements and contexts applicable to the work environment

## Context for assessment

- This unit of competency must be assessed in the context of a sport or recreation activity. For valid and reliable assessment the sport or recreation activity should closely replicate the work environment. The environment should be safe with the hazards, circumstances and equipment likely to be encountered in a real workplace
- Assessment of this unit of competence will usually include observation of processes and procedures, oral and/or written questioning on required knowledge and skills and consideration of required attitudes
- Where performance is not directly observed and/or is required to be demonstrated over a "period of time" and/or in a "number of locations", any evidence should be authenticated by colleagues, supervisors, clients or other appropriate persons

## Essential Assessment Information

There is **essential information about assessing this competency standard for consistent performance and where and how it may be assessed**, in the Assessment Guidelines for this Training Package. All users of these competency standards must have **access** to the **Assessment Guidelines**. Further advice may also be sought from the relevant **sector booklet**.