



**Australian Government**

# **NWPCAD003 Identify and confirm blue-green algae outbreaks**

**Release: 1**

# NWPCAD003 Identify and confirm blue-green algae outbreaks

## Modification History

Release 1. This is the first release of this unit of competency in the NWP National Water Training Package.

## Application

This unit involves the skills and knowledge required to identify and confirm blue-green algae outbreaks.

It includes confirming and conducting algae sampling, preparing samples for testing, identifying and enumerating blue-green algae. It also includes completing documentation.

This unit applies to those working as operational staff with a specific responsibility for ensuring that water and/or wastewater quality conforms to organisational standards and complies with statutory requirements. Those undertaking this unit would work under appropriate supervision, while performing routine tasks within a familiar context.

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

## Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable.

## Competency Field

Catchment and Dams

## Unit Sector

Not applicable.

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

#### **1 Confirm and conduct algae sampling**

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

#### **1.1 Determine work requirements for identifying and confirming algae outbreaks in line with specifications and instructions**

- |          |                                                |                                                                                                      |
|----------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | <b>1.2</b>                                     | Select and prepare sampling equipment according to specified samples required                        |
|          | <b>1.3</b>                                     | Select, fit and use personal protective equipment                                                    |
|          | <b>1.4</b>                                     | Perform algae sampling according to workplace procedures                                             |
|          | <b>1.5</b>                                     | Maintain integrity of samples during sampling and testing                                            |
|          | <b>1.6</b>                                     | Label samples according to workplace procedures                                                      |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Receive and prepare samples for testing</b> |                                                                                                      |
|          | <b>2.1</b>                                     | Receive, handle and prepare samples for testing according to workplace procedures                    |
|          | <b>2.2</b>                                     | Prepare and check testing equipment for blue-green algae identification and enumeration              |
|          | <b>2.3</b>                                     | Handle algae samples using correct safety procedures                                                 |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Identify and enumerate blue-green algae</b> |                                                                                                      |
|          | <b>3.1</b>                                     | Conduct microscopic examination of algae sample according to workplace procedures                    |
|          | <b>3.2</b>                                     | Determine number of cells and calculate cell concentration                                           |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Complete documentation</b>                  |                                                                                                      |
|          | <b>4.1</b>                                     | Complete data report of the blue-green algae test results                                            |
|          | <b>4.2</b>                                     | Identify and report observations outside defined parameters to relevant personnel for further action |

## Foundation Skills

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

## Range of Conditions

Range is restricted to essential operating conditions and any other variables essential to the work environment.

Non-essential conditions may be found in the Companion Volume Implementation Guide.

## Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces and is equivalent to NWPSOU003 Identify and confirm blue-green algae

outbreaks.

## Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=26336bc0-04e5-49d9-8c31-46c49b6a0037>

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