



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for AHCARB303 Perform pruning operations

Release: 2

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 2	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 2.0.
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 1.0.

Performance Evidence

The candidate must perform the remedial and corrective pruning operations involved in branch pruning, reduction pruning and stem pruning. The candidate must be assessed on their ability to integrate and apply the performance requirements of this unit in a workplace setting. Performance must be demonstrated consistently over time and in a suitable range of contexts.

The candidate must provide evidence for and demonstrate:

- determining location of above-and-below-ground services
- undertaking a site-specific risk assessment by identifying work health and safety hazards and assessing risk
- receiving pruning instructions from supervisor and clarifying prior to undertaking work
- communicating with work team during operations using voice, hand and whistle signals
- confirming first aid, rescue equipment and rescue procedures applicable to tree work
- identifying location of tree to be pruned
- inspecting trees for access and work
- determining type extent and limit of pruning work in accordance with the specifications, scope of works or client brief
- maintaining awareness of power line proximity, safe approach distances and clearances
- selecting appropriate tools and equipment for pruning
- considering access and impact value of secateurs, handsaws, chainsaws and polesaws
- selecting, preparing, and carrying out pre-operational and safety checks, on tools, equipment and machinery
- selecting and using personal protective equipment
- sterilising pruning equipment in between work on individual trees in accordance with hygiene and biosecurity considerations
- recording and implementing work health, safety, site, environmental and traffic control measures

- investigating stem bark ridge, old cuts, dead branches and occluded and occluding branches
- determining the separate parts to be a branch or co-dominant stem in relation to the tree anatomy and branch attachment
- determining the part requiring removal to be a branch or a co-dominant stem
- using sharp pruning tools to make clean cuts
- operating chainsaws and polesaws
- implementing pruning cuts to the standards required by AS 4373
- applying compartmentalisation of decay in tree (CODIT) principles
- pre-cutting or undercutting branches to avoid splitting or tearing
- removing remaining stub with final cut
- observing final cut procedure for branch removal for cutting as close as possible to the branch collar without cutting into the branch collar or leaving a protruding stub.
- using branch bark ridge to determine angle of cut when removing a branch in the absence of a visible collar
- ensuring bark at edge of all branch pruning cuts remains firmly attached
- using the branch bark ridge as a guide to the angle and position of the final cut when making reduction cuts
- ensuring the lateral branch to which the final cut is made, is at least one third of the diameter of the branch being reduced at the point of the final cut.
- using the stem bark ridge to determine the angle of cut when removing a co-dominant stem
- being guided to the position and angle of the final cut, by positions and angles of joins between tissue of declining or dead stems and those of healthy stems elsewhere in tree
- ensuring bark at edge of all stem pruning cuts remains firmly attached
- inspecting past pruning cuts to determine tree response
- using tree response to assess the quality of past pruning cuts
- seeking feedback on pruning from other arborists
- identifying and rectifying incorrect pruning cuts
- modifying future pruning cuts based on tree responses and feedback from others
- dropping pruning material into designated drop zone
- cleaning, maintaining and storing tools and equipment
- collecting and disposing of, or recycling pruned material in a manner that causes minimal environmental damage
- maintaining workplace records
- use of industry-standard terminology to describe arboriculture and the work environment.

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of:

- risk assessment
- visual tree assessment
- tree health, growth habit, structure, stability and growing environment

- first aid
- operation of chainsaws and polesaws
- tree and branch anatomy and attachments: lateral branch collars, branch bark ridges, stem bark ridges
- pruning cuts to the standards required by AS 4373
- reduction cuts
- tree response to pruning
- correct and incorrect pruning cuts
- rectifying cuts
- pruning hygiene
- biosecurity
- communications using voice, hand and whistle signals
- power line proximity, safe approach distances and clearances
- rescue personnel, equipment and procedures applicable to tree work
- interpreting specifications
- maintaining workplace records
- disposal of plant debris in environmentally aware and sensitive manner
- work health and safety procedures for pruning operations.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment must be demonstrated consistently over time in a suitable range of contexts and have a productivity-based outcome. No single assessment event or report is sufficient to achieve competency in this unit.

Assessment may be conducted in a simulated or real work environment; however determination of competency requires the application of work practices under work conditions.

The mandatory equipment and materials used to gather evidence for assessment include:

- equipment:
 - chainsaws - climbing saw
 - pole saw
 - pruning handsaws
 - high decibel whistle
 - personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - first aid and emergency kit
 - traffic management kit
 - signage - work zone
 - trees and tree parts
- materials:
 - pruning operations form
 - hazard identification and risk control form

- equipment and PPE check form
- emergency preparation form
- work communications form
- work site operations form
- work records form

Assessors must satisfy current standards for RTOs in the assessment of arboriculture units of competency.

Assessment must be conducted only by persons who have:

- arboriculture vocational competencies at least to the level being assessed
- current arboriculture industry skills directly relevant to the unit of competency being assessed

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>