



**Australian Government**

# **Assessment Requirements for AHCARB401 Verify pruning specifications**

**Release: 1**

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## Modification History

| Release | TP Version | Comment         |
|---------|------------|-----------------|
| 1       | AHCv1.0    | Initial release |

## Performance Evidence

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:

- confirming trees to be pruned and the desired outcomes for pruning works in accordance with client brief
- determining location of above-and-below-ground services
- undertaking a site-specific risk assessment by identifying work health and safety hazards and assessing risk
- identifying and record tree species using botanical nomenclature and common names
- verifying location of tree using fixed reference points of boundary lines, residential housing and fences
- determining and document dimensions of tree recording the characteristics of the approximate height, canopy, spread and diameter-at-breast-height (DBH)
- recording and implementing work health, safety, site, environmental and traffic control measures
- evaluating tree for pruning
- considering tree's health, growth habit, structure, stability and growing environment
- determining class, code, species application and clause of pruning required in accordance with current Australian Standard 'pruning of amenity trees'
- determining compensatory tree care required to offset losses arising from pruning of live tissue
- determining requirement to meet biosecurity regulations for transmission of diseases by pruning equipment and materials
- verifying smallest diameter of dead branches to be removed.
- determining maximum and average diameter of live branches to be pruned
- verifying for crown thinning operations: maximum diameter of branches; and total percentage of total crown foliage permitted to be cut
- verifying for selective pruning operations: identity and locations of specific branches to be cut

- verifying for formative pruning operations: identify and locations of specific branch
- verifying for reduction pruning operations: an extent of pruning best described as a percentage, and the approximate dimensions and precise nodes
- verifying for crown lifting operations: maximum diameter & location + maximum height (or minimum height)
- verifying for pollarding: dimensions of permanent structure
- verifying for remedial and restorative pruning: any key reference points in the tree and any key measurement and any objectives
- verifying for line clearance: minimum clearance distances
- verifying branch location and identity by identification process starting with closest branch to ground labelled as branch number one
- readying branch pattern from the ground up, select branch required and label branch with number in sequential order
- determining and document direction of branch growth by selecting north, south, east, or west and label branch
- estimating and document height of branch attachment from ground
- describing structural order of branches: first order - directly off the trunk; second order - immediately off first order; third order etc.
- verifying approximation of branch collar diameter at location of pruning point
- using photographs to verify and confirm location of pruning cuts
- recording information on pro-forma documents
- confirming written pruning specifications
- clarifying the terminology used and extent of works with the client
- documenting a written record of contract for the client as required
- providing completed written specification to client and work crew
- assessing pruning work performed against anticipated outcomes and record anomalies
- seeking feedback from client on work performed
- seeking feedback from work crew on clarity of specifications
- recording areas of improvement for future use in specifications
- signing off on specified work and completing required records
- use of industry standard terminology to describe pruning specifications
- awareness of work health and safety in the context of own work.

## Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of:

- site-specific risk assessment
- tree species using botanical nomenclature and common names
- fixed reference points
- dimensions of tree
- characteristics of the approximate height, canopy, spread and diameter-at-breast-height (DBH)
- tree's health, growth habit, structure, stability and growing environment

- tree age class, code, species application and clause of pruning required in accordance with current Australian Standard 'Pruning of amenity trees'
- compensatory tree care
- losses arising from pruning of live tissue
- biosecurity regulations
- transmission of diseases by pruning equipment and materials
- specification for crown thinning operations
- specification for selective pruning operations
- specification for formative pruning operations
- specification for reduction pruning operations
- specification for crown lifting operations
- specification for pollarding
- maximum and average diameter of live branches
- total crown foliage
- identity and locations of specific branches
- extent of pruning best described as a percentage
- approximate dimensions and precise nodes
- maximum height (or minimum height)
- dimensions of permanent structure
- specification for remedial and restorative pruning
- specification for line clearance
- specification for branch location and identity by identification process
- key reference points in the tree
- minimum clearance distances
- branch pattern
- sequential order
- direction of branch growth by selecting north, south, east, or west
- approximation of branch collar diameter
- location of pruning point
- pro-forma documents
- pruning specifications
- terminology
- written record of contract
- specifications
- anticipated outcomes
- anomalies
- specified work.

## Assessment Conditions

It is an industry requirement for competency in this unit that assessment includes the assessment of pruning works on each of the maintenance and modification operations:

- crown maintenance pruning
- crown thinning operations
- selective pruning operations
- formative pruning operations
- reduction pruning operations
- crown lifting operations
- pollarding
- remedial and restorative pruning
- line clearance

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:
  - computer
  - word processing software
  - internet connection
  - digital camera/phone camera
  - tree
- materials:
  - site-specific risk assessment form
  - pruning specification 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>