



Australian Government

AHCARB401 Verify pruning specifications

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comment
1	AHCv1.0	Initial release

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to verify the application of requirements of Australian Standards to operational pruning specification within a range of arboriculture operations and industry contexts.

This unit applies to individuals who supervise others and provide and communicate solutions to a range of predictable and sometimes unpredictable problems. Work is implemented with low risk work procedures and to comply with Safe Work Method documentation.

Licensing, legislative, regulatory, or certification requirements apply to this unit in some states and territories at the time of publication, and may differ according to jurisdiction. Specific determination should be sought through the relevant State or Territory. Works involving this unit of competency may be subject to local tree protection and preservation laws, and the relevant content of applicable Australian Standards such as AS 4373.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil.

Unit Sector

Arboriculture (ARB)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Locate and verify the tree and site characteristics	1.1 Confirm trees to be pruned and the desired outcomes for pruning works in accordance with client brief 1.2 Determine location of above-and-below-ground services 1.3 Undertake a site-specific risk assessment by identifying work health and safety hazards and assessing risk

Element	Performance criteria
	1.4 Confirm identified tree species using botanical nomenclature and common names 1.5 Verify location of tree using specific address, road sections, kilometre or measurement markers and fixed reference points of boundary lines, residential housing and fences 1.6 Determine and document dimensions of tree recording the characteristics of the approximate height, canopy, spread and diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) 1.7 Record and implement work health, safety, site, environmental and traffic control measures
2. Inspect tree and determine specification standard	2.1 Inspect trees and areas identified for pruning 2.2 Consider tree's health, growth habit, structure, stability and growing environment 2.3 Determine age class, code, species application and clause of pruning required in accordance with current Australian Standard 'Pruning of amenity trees' 2.4 Determine compensatory tree care required to offset losses arising from pruning of live tissue 2.5 Determine requirement to meet biosecurity regulations for transmission of diseases by pruning equipment and materials
3. Verify crown maintenance pruning	3.1 Verify smallest diameter of dead branches to be removed 3.2 Determine maximum and average diameter of live branches to be pruned 3.3 Verify for selective pruning operations: identity and locations of specific branches to be cut 3.4 Verify for formative pruning operations: identity and locations of specific branch
4. Verify crown modification pruning	4.1 Verify for reduction pruning operations: extent of pruning best described as a percentage, and the approximate dimensions and precise nodes 4.2 Verify for crown lifting operations: maximum diameter and location + maximum height (or minimum height) 4.3 Verify for pollarding: dimensions of permanent structure 4.4 Verify for remedial and restorative pruning: any key reference points in the tree and any key measurement and any objectives 4.5 Verify for Line clearance including minimum clearance distances
5. Verify the branch location	5.1 Verify branch location and identity by identification process starting with closest branch to ground labelled as branch number one 5.2 Read branch pattern from the ground up, verify branch selected and verify branch label with number in sequential order

Element	Performance criteria
	5.3 Determine and document direction of branch growth by selecting North, South, East, or West and verify branch label 5.4 Verify and document height of branch attachment from ground 5.5 Describe structural order of branches 5.6 Verify approximation of branch collar diameter at location of pruning point 5.7 Use photographs to verify and confirm location of pruning cuts
6. Provide information to client and work crew	6.1 Record information on pro-forma documents 6.2 Confirm written pruning specifications 6.3 Clarify the terminology used and extent of works with the client 6.4 Document a written record of contract for the client as required 6.5 Provide completed written specification to client and work crew
7. Produce a documented record of pruning works	7.1 Assess pruning work performed against anticipated outcomes and record anomalies 7.2 Seek feedback from client on work performed 7.3 Seek feedback from work crew on clarity of specifications 7.4 Record areas of improvement for future use in specifications 7.5 Sign off on specified work and complete required records

Foundation Skills

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

Range of Conditions

Unit Mapping Information

New unit - no equivalent.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

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

Assessment Requirements for AHCARB401 Verify pruning specifications

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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

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