



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for AHCARB406 Verify pruning specifications

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 5.0.

Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has verified pruning specifications on at least nine trees for three different classes of pruning, with no more than one pruning class per tree, including:

- confirmed and identified tree species to be pruned and its size and characteristics
- assessed and documented site safety and implemented controls
- assessed the tree to be pruned for condition and growing environment and determined planned pruning operations and compensatory tree care
- reviewed and confirmed planned pruning operations complied with client brief, arborist specifications and industry standards
- documented planned pruning operations and confirmed with client and arborist
- prepared pruning specification and contract for approvals and provided specifications to work team
- assessed completed pruning works against specifications and implemented remedial action for non-compliance
- reviewed pruning operations and documented future improvements
- maintained records.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- work health, safety, site and environment, including:
 - preparing job safety analysis and safe work method statements for site-specific risks
 - personal protective equipment used when climbing
 - safety and procedures when working near overhead power lines
- specifications and Australian Standard AS4373 for crown maintenance, including:

- dead wooding
- crown thinning
- selective pruning
- formative pruning
- specifications and Australian Standard AS4373 for crown modification, including:
 - reduction pruning
 - crown lifting
 - pollarding
 - remedial or restorative pruning
 - utilities line clearing
- current national recognised industry standards relating to tree pruning operations
- tree species identification standards, including:
 - botanical nomenclature
 - common names
- characteristics of trees and pruning operations, including:
 - approximating height and canopy size and spread
 - trunk dimensions as diameter-at-breast-height (DBH)
 - estimating total crown foliage
 - the location and distribution of branches
 - estimating extent of pruning as a percentage of canopy
 - specification of key reference points within a tree
- tree's health, growth habit, structure, stability and growing environment
- post-pruning tree care, including:
 - impacts arising from pruning of live tissue
 - compensatory tree care activities
- minimising transmission of diseases with pruning equipment and materials, including:
 - biosecurity requirements
 - basic principles of hygiene when maintaining tools and equipment
- pruning procedures and methods, including:
 - maximum and average diameter of live branches
 - minimum clearance distances
 - branch pattern
 - direction of branch growth by selecting north, south, east or west
 - approximation of branch collar diameter
 - location of pruning point
- crown maintenance and modifications and pruning cut options, including:
 - stem co-dominance
 - stem bark ridge
 - old cuts
 - dead branches

- occluded and occluding branches
- basics of contracts and their purpose in arboriculture work, including:
 - client communication strategies
 - verbal contracts
 - documented contracts
 - legal requirements
- importance of gaining regulatory approvals
- specifying and documenting pruning work requirements
- record keeping and reporting procedures when verifying pruning specifications.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - nine different trees stipulated in the performance evidence
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - computer for accessing information and documenting outcomes
- specifications:
 - client or arborist specifications for pruning as stipulated in the performance evidence
 - workplace procedures and instructions, related to pruning operations
 - preferred industry practices (as outlined in the Companion Volume) relating to tree pruning operations, including AS4373
- relationships:
 - client and work team.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. In particular, assessors must 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 Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>