



Australian Government

AHCFAU302 Identify fauna in the field

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 6.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to observe fauna characteristics for identification in the field using reference material. This is not an animal surveying unit; it focuses on observation skills and the identification of fauna from these observations.

The unit applies to individuals who work in the conservation and ecosystem management industry under broad supervision and who take responsibility for their own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources and for solving problems.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Fauna (FAU)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Prepare for fauna identification	1.1 Identify and select processes for observing fauna for identification 1.2 Identify and select resources and equipment required for identification activity 1.3 Determine relationship between ecology and fauna for location of observation

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.4 Select surveillance techniques suitable for observing fauna, and reduce environmental impact 1.5 Site equipment at location to maximise observations 1.6 Identify hazards, assess risks and implement controls according to workplace health and safety and biosecurity procedures
2. Identify fauna	2.1 Observe and record fauna characteristics 2.2 Ensure observation activities comply with animal welfare codes of practice and standard operating procedures 2.3 Investigate and record supplementary evidence for fauna identification 2.4 Source and use reference material to assist identification 2.5 Compare fauna characteristics and supplementary evidence with reference materials to classify fauna to nearest genus and species
3. Complete identification of fauna	3.1 Record fauna identification and sightings in reference collection according to workplace procedures 3.2 Update field notes with fauna identification 3.3 Report identification of fauna according to workplace procedures

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Reading	Analyse and compare observations and data against defined criteria in guides, keys and reference materials to assist in the identification of fauna
Writing	Accurately record observations and identity of fauna in records and reference collections using clear language, organisational formatting and accurate spelling of zoological names

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCFAU302 Identify fauna in the field	Not applicable	The unit has been created to address an emerging skill or task required by industry	Newly created

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCFAU302 Identify fauna in the field

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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 identified at least 20 fauna species in the field, which must include at least five species from three of the following groups:

- mammals
- birds
- reptiles/amphibians
- fish
- invertebrates.

There must also be evidence that the individual has:

- accessed a natural area in a manner suitable to observe fauna causing minimal disruption and damage to the environment
- identified and selected processes, ecology, equipment and resources for observation of specific fauna
- applied animal welfare practices when observing fauna
- recorded characteristics of fauna and investigated and recorded supplementary evidence
- used reference material to identify fauna according to their characteristics
- applied workplace health and safety policies and procedures for fauna observation activities
- recorded fauna observations and identification according to workplace procedures.

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:

- principles and practices for identifying fauna, including:
 - identification techniques and resources
 - fauna behaviour

- fauna habitats
- tracks, scats and traces
- typical characteristics of fauna
- nomenclature and naming conventions for fauna, including:
 - vertebrates
 - invertebrates
- techniques for observing, identifying and recording fauna
- functions and operations of site equipment and tools
- reference materials used in identification process, including:
 - field guides
 - web sites and apps
 - fauna keys
 - digital images, pictures, graphics and other referenced collection to aid identification
- purposes for observing and monitoring fauna
- fauna and their ecological relationships with the location, including:
 - home range
 - breeding/nesting/shelter
 - access to food and water resources
 - movements – nomadic/migratory behaviours
- workplace health and safety procedures when conducting observations and collecting supplementary evidence
- procedures for reporting rare, uncommon or notifiable fauna
- animal welfare and environmental codes of practice relevant to the observation of fauna.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated where target fauna species inhabit or in an environment that accurately represents these conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - fauna
 - tools and equipment required for fauna observations
 - reference materials
 - personal protective equipment required while conducting observations
- specifications:
 - workplace policies, procedures, processes and instructions
 - specifications for fauna recognition activity
 - legislation/codes of practice relevant to fauna and environment.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

Links

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