



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

CSCSAS404A Use firearms

Revision Number: 2

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Modification History

CSCSAS404A Release 2: Layout adjusted. No changes to content.
CSCSAS404A Release 1: Primary release.

Unit Descriptor

This unit of competency describes the outcomes required to deal with the selection and use of firearms and the effective use of firearms to protect and minimise risk to people.

Application of the Unit

This unit applies to correctional services staff working with offenders in prisons and secure custodial centres. With changes based on different organisation's needs, it can apply to specialist emergency units, escort services, specialist roles and to workers in the community where this function is part of the work role.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

Not applicable.

Employability Skills Information

This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

Performance criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where ***bold italicised*** text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge and/or the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

1 Assess the need to use firearms.

- 1.1 Analyse incident to assess the need for the use of firearms against the degree and nature of risk to people, the organisation's use of force guidelines, and emergency response procedures.
- 1.2 Anticipate risk, based on assessment of information available, observation of the hazards in the situation and likely consequences of events.
- 1.3 Assess and select **options for action** on the basis of capacity to complete the actions and suitability of response to the degree of risk.
- 1.4 Identify situations requiring assistance and request support promptly.

2 Handle and discharge firearms.

- 2.1 Carry firearms in a secure, protected and accessible manner that complies with **legal requirements** and organisation procedures.
- 2.2 Employ tactical positioning that is consistent with assessment of intentions and risks and anticipates a range of different actions.
- 2.3 Ensure judgements made about the use of firearms are justified in terms of use of force guidelines and legal requirements.
- 2.4 Select ammunition appropriate to firearm that complies with manufacturer specifications and legal requirements.
- 2.5 Select personal protective equipment according to the requirements of the situation and use it according to organisational procedures.
- 2.6 Check that grip, handling and presentation of firearms comply with legal requirements and ensure retention and continued control.
- 2.7 Discharge firearms where necessary according to legislation and organisational policy and procedures.
- 2.8 Maintain consistency of accuracy in the discharge of firearms as defined by organisational standards and procedures.

3 Evaluate response.

- 3.1 Evaluate and review effectiveness of responses according to information, observation and outcomes of events.
- 3.2 Provide accurate and constructive observations of incidents in review and debriefing of incidents.
- 3.3 Complete records and reports that comply with the

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

organisation's procedures, requirements and formats.
3.4 Recognise and manage the effects of stress, using stress management techniques.

Required Skills and Knowledge

This section describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level, required for this unit.

Required skills:

- interpreting and complying with legal and procedural requirements related to the use of firearms, tactical response and defensive techniques
- estimating levels of conflict and degree of risk
- applying firearm use that minimises harm and injury
- applying timely reactions in the use and termination of force
- providing clear warnings, directions and information
- safe and controlled handling of firearms
- safe and correct use of ammunition
- safe and appropriate use of tactical positions
- maintaining consistency of accuracy in the discharge of firearms
- maintaining standards required by firearms licensing requirements.

Required knowledge:

- legal and procedural requirements related to use of force, use of restraint, use of specific response equipment and techniques, powers of arrest and use of firearms
- allowance of tactical responses and use of firearms within specified legal and strategic limits
- response options that are most effective for the degree and nature of risk
- principles of communication to reduce the level of threat or conflict
- principles of communication to give clear, accurate and concise information
- risk factors and their impact on incidents and situations.

Evidence Guide

The Evidence Guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, the range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for this Training Package.

Overview of assessment

Evidence for assessment must be gathered over time in a range of contexts to ensure the person can achieve the unit outcome and apply the competency in different situations or environments. Assessment may require demonstration, where required by work role and responsibilities, of the range of firearms used and issued by organisation.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

In addition to integrated demonstration of the elements and their related performance criteria, look for evidence that confirms:

- the knowledge requirements of this unit
- the skill requirements of this unit
- application of employability skills as they relate to this unit
- ability to use firearms in a range of (two or more) contexts or occasions, over time.

Assessment will also require demonstration of the use of:

- self-defence
- avoidance techniques
- containment and isolation.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

This unit contains knowledge that may be assessed off the job, for example in a structured learning process, and performance outcomes that should be assessed ideally in the workplace in routine activities and in conjunction with other units with specific functional focus.

Valid assessment of this unit requires:

- a workplace environment or one that closely resembles normal work practice and replicates the range of conditions likely to be encountered by an individual responsible for the use of firearms as part of a coordinated team, including coping with difficulties, irregularities and changes to routine
- copies of legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines relating to using firearms
- access to appropriate learning and assessment support when required.

Method of assessment

The following assessment methods are suggested:

- observation of performance in routine workplace activities within a range of agreed responsibilities and in various work locations
- written and/or oral questioning to assess knowledge and understanding
- completion of workplace documents and reports produced as part of routine work activities
- third-party reports from experienced practitioners
- completion of performance feedback from supervisors and colleagues.

Guidance information for assessment

Assessment methods should reflect workplace demands, and any identified special needs of the candidate, including language and literacy implications and cultural factors that may affect responses to the questions.

In all cases where practical assessment is used it will be combined with targeted questioning to assess the underpinning knowledge.

It is recommended consideration be given to assessing this unit in conjunction with:

- CSCSAS205A Contain incidents that jeopardise safety and security
- CSCSAS302A Control incidents using defensive tactics.

Range Statement

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. ***Bold italicised*** wording in the performance criteria is detailed below. Add any essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts.

Options for action should include:

- communication to calm, distract, change focus and negotiate
- tactical withdrawal
- requests for assistance
- degree of force and methods consistent with level and nature of risk
- harm minimisation
- allowable defensive techniques and equipment.

Legal requirements will be demonstrated through application of:

- applicable federal, and state or territory legislation
- organisational guidelines, policies and operating procedures.

Unit Sector(s)

Safety and security.

Competency field

Not applicable.