



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

CUVOPA02B Handle and store rough and cut opal

Release: 1

CUVOPA02B Handle and store rough and cut opal

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor This unit covers handling and storage of rough and cut opal and procedures to minimise damage and loss.

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

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit This unit requires the application of analytical and manual skills needed in handling rough and cut opal, documenting all details of the opal and putting in place appropriate procedures to control stock and prevent accidental loss, theft or damage to the gems. It may be applied in a range of environments from cutting and polishing to retailing, wholesaling, selling on the Internet or mining.

Where appropriate the outcomes of this unit could be contextualised to apply to other gemstones. Examples of aspects of the unit that may need to be adjusted would include:

- the specific properties of each gemstones
- industry and market requirements
- underpinning knowledge
- Range Statement.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Refer to Unit Descriptor

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units

This unit may be assessed on its own or it may be assessed with other units that cover related skills and knowledge.

Evidence is most relevant when provided through an integrated activity which combines the Elements of competency for the unit, or a cluster of units of competency.

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills

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

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Handle and store rough and cut opal. | 1.1 Document source, origin and <i>types of rough opal.</i>
1.2 Identify <i>appropriate storage conditions and locations</i> for various types and classes of opal.
1.3 Identify <i>ways in which damage might occur</i> to rough and cut opal and take <i>preventative measures.</i>
1.4 Grade opals if required.
1.5 Weigh and bag opals and store appropriately. |
| 2 Use processes that minimise loss and theft. | 2.1 Identify <i>areas of risk</i> and evaluate process employed for handling and processing gems.
2.2 Determine <i>strategies for managing risk and ways to safeguard</i> opals.
2.3 Implement risk minimisation strategy.
2.4 Document all facts about the opals and all procedures thoroughly. |
| 3 Control stock. | 3.1 Identify an appropriate <i>stock control system.</i>
3.2 Establish procedures for <i>stock</i> control.
3.3 Follow stock control procedures to manage and monitor stock.
3.4 Maintain records of stock. |

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills:

- sample identification
- classing
- weighing skills

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- problem solving
- recording and stock control procedures.

Required knowledge:

- origin of the types and forms of opal
- knowledge of types of cutting styles
- procedures for handling and storage
- areas of risk of theft.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

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

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

Assessment must confirm knowledge of the handling and storage of opal in the work environment.

In particular, assessment must confirm the ability to:

- Identify, explain and apply safe and appropriate procedures for the handling and storage of rough or cut and polished opal.
- Be able to evaluate the areas where there is risk of loss and theft and follow risk minimising procedures.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

This unit may be assessed in a work environment, in a simulated work environment or in a combination of these situations.

Method of assessment

For valid and reliable assessment of this unit, evidence should be gathered through a range of methods to indicate consistent performance.

Assessment of this unit of competence will usually

EVIDENCE GUIDE

include observation of processes and procedures, oral and/or written questioning on underpinning knowledge and skills and other methods as required.

Assessment methods should closely reflect workplace demands (e.g. literacy) and the needs of particular groups (e.g. people with disabilities, and people who may have literacy or numeracy difficulties such as speakers of languages other than English, remote communities and those with interrupted schooling).

Competence in this unit must be assessed over a period of time in order to ensure consistency of performance over the range of variables and contexts applicable to the work environment.

Assessment of this competency requires access to:

- various samples of rough and cut opal; scales, storage locations, bags, recording materials
- a qualified workplace assessor or assessment team.

Range Statement

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, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. 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) may also be included.

Types of rough opal may include:

- composite natural opal - doublets; triplets; mosaic and chip opals
- natural opal type 1 (opal in one piece in its natural state apart from cutting and polishing)
- natural opal type 2 - opal naturally attached to the host rock - boulder opal
- natural opal type 3 - opal intimately diffused as infilling in pores or between the grains of the host rock - matrix opal
- varieties of opal:
(N1 to N9 represents gradation from black to white in approximately 10% intervals)
 - black - opal which shows a play of colour within or on a black or very dark body tone (N1, N2, N3, N4)
 - dark - opal which shows a play of colour within or on a dark body tone (N5, N6)
 - light - opal which shows a play of colour within or on a light body tone (N7, N8, N9).

Appropriate storage conditions and locations may include:

- depending on the value: in safe; in designated locked cupboard
- display boxes/pockets
- display cases
- individually bagged
- not in a dehumidified atmosphere
- safes and deposit boxes
- under lock and key.

Ways in which damage to

- dehydration

RANGE STATEMENT

rough or cut and polished opal might occur may include:

- doublets and triplets should not be immersed in water
- exposure to halogen lights (12v)
- extremes of temperature
- general wear and tear
- rough handling
- surface damage/scratching.

Preventative measures for cut and polished opal may include:

- humidifying atmosphere
- keeping in bags.

Areas of risk may include:

- lack of documentation
- misplacement
- theft.

Strategies for minimising risk and safeguarding opal may include:

- alarm systems
- banks (deposit boxes - not in dehumidified boxes or safes)
- display cases
- insurance
- lighting
- photographing
- safes
- scanning
- security locks
- systematic approach to storage and handling
- thorough recording/documenting
- use of standard procedures for handling, storage and documentation.

Stock control system may be:

- manual or electronic

Note: for small businesses the stock control system may be very simple.

Stock may be:

- cutting and polishing consumables

RANGE STATEMENT

- equipment for production cutting
- rough or cut opal.

Unit Sector(s)

Not Applicable

Competency field

Competency field Opal cutting and polishing