



Australian Government

DEFCO106C Transmit and receive messages via visual means

Release 2

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Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comments
2	DEF12V2	Layout adjusted. No changes to content.
1	DEF12V1	Primary release.

Unit Descriptor

This unit covers the competency required to communicate via visual means using flags, shapes and flashing light.

The unit also covers the ability to encode and decode signal groups. It includes the ability to work independently or as part of a team within specific communications environments.

Application of the Unit

This unit typically applies in a naval environment and covers the application of fundamental naval visual communications but is applicable to any individual in this field of work.

Notwithstanding the requirement for modern electronic communications at sea, visual communications are still used in circumstances where other communications methods are not appropriate.

Typically operators work independently and as part of a team under direct and/or indirect supervision, use discretion and judgement, and take responsibility for the quality of their outputs. All activities are carried out in accordance with relevant organisational policies and procedures.

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. Transmit and receive messages via flags and shapes/lights	1.1 Messages are transmitted via flags and shapes/lights in accordance with specific workplace and Defence instructions. 1.2 Messages are received via flags and shapes in accordance with specific workplace and Defence instructions. 1.3 Reports are promptly made to appropriate personnel.
2. Transmit and receive messages via flashing light	2.1 Messages are transmitted via flashing light in accordance with specific workplace and Defence instructions. 2.2 Messages are received via flashing light in accordance with specific workplace and Defence instructions. 2.3 Reports are promptly made to appropriate personnel.
3. Encode and decode signal groups	3.1 Signal groups are encoded in accordance with specific workplace and Defence instructions. 3.2 Signal groups are decoded in accordance with specific workplace and Defence instructions.

Required Skills and Knowledge

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

Required Skills

- apply flagdeck discipline
- bend on flags and shapes
- encode/decode signal groups
- encourage team members
- follow directives
- follow instructions/directives and report information
- maintain current visual fleet standards
- provide timely and accurate reports
- use a variety of verbal and non verbal communication techniques
- use active listening techniques

Required Knowledge

- colours and meanings of flags and pennants, used in naval and international signalling

- composition of teams and roles and responsibilities of team members
- flagdeck layout
- logging equivalents
- meanings of flags and pennants
- morse code
- RADHAZ procedures and organisation
- selection of halyards, flags and shapes
- task shapes/lights used in naval signalling
- techniques for supporting others
- use of prosigns and callsigns
- visual communications procedures

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.

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

There are no critical aspects for assessment.

Consistency in performance

Competency should be demonstrated over time to ensure the individual is assessed across a wide variety of situations within the workplace.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Context of assessment

Competency should be assessed in the workplace or in a simulated workplace environment.

Specific resources for assessment

Access is required to:

- communications publications
- signalling publications
- specific workplace operating procedures
- task specific communications equipment

Method of assessment

In a public safety environment assessment is usually conducted via direct observation in a training environment or in the workplace via subject matter supervision and/or mentoring, which is typically recorded in a competency workbook.

Assessment is completed using appropriately qualified assessors who select the most appropriate method of assessment.

Assessment may occur in an operational environment or in an industry-approved simulated work environment. Forms of assessment that are typically used include:

- direct observation
- interviewing the candidate
- journals and workplace documentation
- third party reports from supervisors
- written or oral questions

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.

<i>Messages for transmission or reception</i> may include:	• Action signals • General information signals not requiring relay • International signals • Navigational shapes/lights • Signals requiring relay to other ships in company
<i>Flashing light</i> may include:	• Directional procedure • Intermediate signal light • Non directional procedure • 10 inch signal projector • 5 inch signal light • Yardarm non directional flashing lights
<i>Signal groups</i> may include:	• International signals • Operating signals • Tactical signals

Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.