



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

FDFCON2003A Operate a chocolate conching process

Revision Number: 1

FDFCON2003A Operate a chocolate conching process

Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to set up, operate, adjust and shut down a conching process.
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Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit has application in a confectionery production environment. It typically targets the production worker responsible for applying basic operating principles to the operation and monitoring of conching machines and equipment in a batch or continuous production process. When batch or product changeover procedures are part of this work process, the procedures should be used to customise the application of this unit. Where more detailed changeovers are carried out, FDFOP2011A Conduct routine maintenance, should be considered.
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Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units		

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills	This unit contains employability skills.
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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.
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Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Prepare the conching equipment and process for operation	1.1. Refined mass is available to meet operating requirements 1.2. Cleaning and maintenance requirements and status are identified and confirmed 1.3. Machine components and related attachments are fitted and adjusted to meet operating requirements 1.4. Processing/operating parameters are entered as required to meet safety and production requirements 1.5. Equipment performance is checked and adjusted as required 1.6. Pre-start checks are carried out as required by workplace requirements
2. Operate and monitor the conching process	2.1. The conching process is started and operated according to workplace procedures 2.2. Equipment is monitored to identify variation in operating conditions 2.3. Variation in equipment operation is identified and maintenance requirements are reported according to workplace reporting requirements 2.4. The process is monitored to confirm that specifications are met 2.5. Out-of-specification product/process outcomes are identified, rectified and/or reported to maintain the process within specification 2.6. The work area is maintained according to housekeeping standards 2.7. Work is conducted in accordance with workplace environmental guidelines 2.8. Workplace records are maintained according to workplace recording requirements
3. Shut down the conching process	3.1. The appropriate shutdown procedure is identified 3.2. The process is shut down according to workplace procedures 3.3. Maintenance requirements are identified and reported according to workplace reporting requirements

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Required skills

Ability to:

- access workplace information to identify conching process requirements
- select, fit and use personal protective clothing and/or equipment
- confirm supply of necessary refined mass and services
- conduct pre-start checks, such as inspecting equipment condition to identify any signs of wear, selecting appropriate settings to achieve required particle size, cancelling isolation or lockouts as required, confirming that equipment is clean and correctly configured for processing requirements, positioning sensors and controls correctly, ensuring any scheduled maintenance has been carried out, and confirming that all safety guards are in place and operational
- load materials in required sequence and work flake to specification
- sequence ingredient addition to meet recipe specifications
- monitor and adjust process equipment to achieve required outcomes, including testing and adjusting viscosity and monitoring other control points as required to confirm process is within specification, such as:
 - ingredient addition sequence
 - mix times
 - temperature
 - amperage/work input
- monitor supply and flow of materials to and from the conche
- demonstrate changeover procedures (unless continuous process)
- take corrective action in response to out-of-specification results
- respond to and/or report equipment failure within level of responsibility
- locate emergency stop functions on equipment
- follow isolation and lock out/tag out procedures as required to take conching process and related equipment off-line in preparation for cleaning and/or maintenance within level of responsibility
- complete workplace records as required
- maintain work area to meet housekeeping standards
- use process control systems according to enterprise procedures
- collect samples and conduct tests according to enterprise procedures
- conduct routine maintenance according to enterprise procedures
- clean and sanitise equipment according to enterprise procedures
- use oral communication skills/language competence to fulfil the job role as specified by the organisation, including questioning, active listening, asking for clarification and seeking advice from supervisor

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- work cooperatively within a culturally diverse workforce

Required knowledge

Knowledge of:

- purpose and basic principles of conching chocolate, including:
 - processing stages in chocolate making and the role of conching
 - ingredients used in chocolate and those added during conching, such as ingredients in different types of chocolate as appropriate to production requirements and an understanding of the quality requirements and role of each main ingredient
 - changes that occur in ingredients during conching
 - significance of viscosity and methods of adjustment
- basic operating principles of equipment, such as main equipment components, status and purpose of guards, equipment operating capacities and applications, and the purpose and location of sensors and related feedback instrumentation
- services required and action to take if services are not available
- the flow of the conching process and the effect of outputs on downstream processes
- quality requirements of mass and ingredients used, and effect of variation on process performance and outputs
- quality characteristics required of the conching stage
- operating requirements and parameters and corrective action required where operation is outside specified operating parameters
- typical equipment faults and related causes, including signs and symptoms of faulty equipment and early warning signs of potential problems
- methods used to monitor the conching process, including an understanding of viscosity testing procedures and other inspections and tests as required
- inspection or test points (control points) in the process and the related procedures and recording requirements
- contamination/food safety risks and related control measures
- common causes of variation and corrective action required
- occupational health and safety (OHS) hazards and controls
- requirements of different shutdowns as appropriate to the conching process and workplace production requirements, including emergency and routine shutdowns and procedures to follow in the event of a power outage
- isolation, lock out and tag out procedures and responsibilities
- product/process changeover procedures and responsibilities
- procedures and responsibility for reporting production and performance information
- environmental issues and controls relevant to the conching process, including waste/rework collection and handling procedures related to the process
- basic operating principles of process control where relevant, including the

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- relationship between control panels and systems and the physical equipment
- sampling and testing associated with process monitoring and control where relevant
- routine maintenance procedures where relevant
- cleaning and sanitation procedures where relevant

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.

Overview of assessment

Assessment must be carried out in a manner that recognises the cultural and literacy requirements of the assessee and is appropriate to the work performed. Competence in this unit must be achieved in accordance with food safety standards and regulations.

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

Evidence of ability to:

- conduct pre-start checks on machinery used for conching
- start, operate, monitor and adjust process equipment to achieve required quality outcomes
- take corrective action in response to typical faults and inconsistencies
- complete workplace records as required
- apply safe work practices and identify OHS hazards and controls
- safely shut down equipment
- apply food safety procedures to work practices.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must occur in a real or simulated workplace where the assessee has access to:

- personal protective clothing and equipment
- work procedures, including advice on safe work practices, food safety, quality and environmental requirements
- information on equipment capacity and operating parameters
- recipe/batch instructions
- specifications, control points and processing parameters
- conche and related equipment and services
- flake and ingredients for addition at the conching stage
- sampling schedules and test procedures and equipment as required
- documentation and recording requirements and procedures
- cleaning procedures, materials and equipment as

EVIDENCE GUIDE	
	required.
Method of assessment	This unit should be assessed together with core units and other units of competency relevant to the function or work role. Examples could be: • FDFOP2004A Clean and sanitise equipment • FDFOP2011A Conduct routine maintenance • FDFOP2013A Apply sampling procedures • FDFOP2030A Operate a process control interface • MSL973001A Perform basic tests.
Guidance information for assessment	To ensure consistency in one's performance, competency should be demonstrated on more than one occasion over a period of time in order to cover a variety of circumstances, cases and responsibilities, and where possible, over a number of assessment activities.

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.

Policies and procedures	Work is carried out according to company policies and procedures, regulatory and licensing requirements, legislative requirements, and industrial awards and agreements
Legislative requirements	Legislative requirements are typically reflected in procedures and specifications. Legislation relevant to this industry includes: - the Food Standards Code, including labelling, weights and measures legislation - legislation covering food safety, environmental management, OHS, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity
Workplace information	Workplace information may include: - standard operating procedures (SOPs) - specifications - production schedules and instructions - manufacturers' advice - standard forms and reports
Conching and related equipment	Conching and related equipment may include: - ingredient addition equipment - continuous or batch conches - conveyor systems
Operation of equipment and processes	Operation of equipment and processes may require: the use of process control panels and systems
Shutdown procedures	Shutdown procedures may include: cleaning (In some cases cleaning may be carried out by a dedicated cleaning crew)
Services	Services may need to be confirmed. These depend on the nature of the process. Typical examples

RANGE STATEMENT

	include:
	• power • steam • water • compressed and instrumentation air

Unit Sector(s)

Unit sector	Confectionery
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Competency field

Competency field	
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Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units		