



Australian Government

MSL973027 Perform techniques that prevent cross-contamination

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and equivalent to MSL973016 Perform aseptic techniques. Title changed to indicate broader scope. Two Performance Criteria removed from Element 2 to reflect increasing use of single-use items. Slight adjustment to Performance Evidence to include additional sample type. Addition to Knowledge Evidence in relation to handling specimens and processing samples for molecular analysis. Removal of some example detail from Assessment Conditions.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge to perform techniques that prevent cross-contamination to maintain the integrity of both the sample source, and the sample and protect people and the environment. It applies to sampling techniques in tissue culture, generic microbiological, molecular and chemical procedures.

This unit of competency applies to laboratory assistants and technicians working in the field or laboratory in the biomedical, biological, food processing and environmental industry sectors.

No licensing or certification requirements exist at the time of publication. However, regulations and/or external accreditation requirements for laboratory operations exist, so local requirements should be checked. Relevant legislation, industry standards and codes of practice within Australia must also be applied.

Competency Field

Testing

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Prepare for sampling or transfer	1.1 Check the sampling procedure conforms with the required sampling plan 1.2 Use specified personal protective equipment (PPE) 1.3 Prepare the work area for safe and effective sample workflows 1.4 Select equipment and materials specified by the procedure 1.5 Organise equipment to minimise contamination during manipulations

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	1.6 Label containers for clear identification 1.7 Record details in relevant log or database 1.8 Macroscopically assess media and/or reagents to confirm integrity before use
2. Transfer materials	2.1 Protect the integrity of the sample source 2.2 Perform transfer while minimising opportunities for contamination and/or cross-infection 2.3 Protect the integrity of the sample source and destination after transfer, and before sealing the transport or culture vessel 2.4 Perform quality control checks to confirm contaminate-free transfer was successful 2.5 Label transport or culture vessels for clear identification
3. Maintain work area and equipment to prevent cross-infection and contamination	3.1 Place disposable and reusable items into relevant receptacles 3.2 Clean, disinfect and/or sterilise work area and equipment after use 3.3 Transport disposable and reusable contaminated materials to relevant areas for disinfection, sterilisation and cleaning or disposal 3.4 Follow personal hygiene procedures

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance.

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Unit Mapping Information

Supersedes and is equivalent to MSL973016 Perform aseptic techniques.

Links

MSL Laboratory Operations Companion Volume Implementation Guide is available from VETNet – -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c63a03b-4a6b-4ae5-9560-1e3c5f462baa>

