



Australian Government

MSL975008 Apply electrophoretic techniques

Release: 1

MSL975008 Apply electrophoretic techniques

Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSL975008A Apply electrophoretic techniques

Application

This unit of competency covers the ability to analyse samples using electrophoretic techniques. The unit also includes establishing client needs for routine and non-routine samples, optimising workplace procedures and instruments for specific samples, obtaining valid and reliable data and reporting test results. Personnel are required to recognise atypical test data/results and troubleshoot common analytical procedure and equipment problems.

This unit of competency is applicable to laboratory technical officers working in all industry sectors. All operations and analytical methods must comply with relevant standards, appropriate procedures and/or workplace requirements. Although a supervisor may not always be present, the technician will follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) that clearly describe their scope of permitted practice, including varying workplace/test procedures and communicating results to people outside the laboratory.

While no specific licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication, laboratory operations are governed by relevant legislation, regulations and/or external accreditation requirements. Local requirements should be checked.

Pre-requisite Unit

MSL974006 Perform biological procedures

OR

MSL974003 Perform chemical tests and procedures

Competency Field

Testing

Unit Sector

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

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|---|---|-----|--|
| 1 | Establish client needs and schedule analysis | 1.1 | Liaise with client or sample provider to determine client needs and sample history |
| | | 1.2 | Record sample description, compare with specification and record and report discrepancies |
| | | 1.3 | Identify non-routine samples and the possible need to vary workplace procedures |
| | | 1.4 | Seek advice from supervisor about any proposed variations and document all approved changes |
| | | 1.5 | Schedule analysis using workplace procedures |
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| 2 | Prepare samples and standards | 2.1 | Obtain a representative analytical portion of the laboratory sample |
| | | 2.2 | Prepare sample in accordance with testing requirements |
| | | 2.3 | Prepare validation checks for analytical portion |
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| 3 | Set up and optimise instrument | 3.1 | Perform pre-use and safety checks in accordance with workplace procedures |
| | | 3.2 | Start up and condition the instrument using workplace procedures |
| | | 3.3 | Optimise instrumental parameters to suit sample and test requirements |
| | | 3.4 | Check calibration status of instrument and perform calibration using specified standards and procedures, as required |
| | | | |
| 4 | Perform analysis | 4.1 | Measure analyte response for standards, validation checks and samples |
| | | 4.2 | Conduct sufficient measurements to obtain reliable data |
| | | 4.3 | Return instruments to standby or shutdown condition as required |

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|---|---|-----|---|
| 5 | Process and analyse data | 5.1 | Confirm data is the result of valid measurements |
| | | 5.2 | Perform required calculations and ensure results are consistent with standards or estimations and expectations |
| | | 5.3 | Record results with the appropriate accuracy, precision and units |
| | | 5.4 | Analyse trends in data and/or results and report out-of-specification or atypical results promptly to appropriate personnel |
| | | 5.5 | Troubleshoot analytical procedure or equipment problems which have led to atypical data or results |
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| 6 | Maintain a safe work environment | 6.1 | Identify risks, hazards, safety equipment and control measures associated with sample handling, preparation and analytical method |
| | | 6.2 | Use personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety procedures specified for test method and materials to be tested |
| | | 6.3 | Minimise the generation of waste and environmental impacts |
| | | 6.4 | Ensure the safe disposal of laboratory waste |
| | | 6.5 | Clean, care for and store equipment and consumables in accordance with workplace procedures |
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| 7 | Maintain laboratory records | 7.1 | Enter approved data and results into laboratory information management system (LIMS) |
| | | 7.2 | Maintain equipment logs in accordance with workplace procedures |
| | | 7.3 | Maintain security, integrity and traceability of samples and documentation |
| | | 7.4 | Communicate results to appropriate personnel |

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.

Range of Conditions

This field allows for different work environments and conditions that may affect performance. Essential operating conditions that may be present (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) are included.

Standards, codes, procedures and/or workplace requirements

Standards, codes, procedures and/or workplace requirements include the latest version of one or more of:

- Australian and international standards covering the requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, laboratory design and construction, physical containment levels and facility types, laboratory safety, and quality and environmental management
- national work health and safety (WHS) standards and codes of practice, and national measurement regulations and guidelines
- Australian and international standards, guidelines and methods for electrophoretic analysis, accuracy of measurement methods and results, expression of uncertainty and quantifying uncertainty
- specific codes, guidelines, procedures and methods, such as the Australian code of good manufacturing practice for medicinal products (GMP), and principles of good laboratory practice (GLP)
- workplace documents, such as SOPs; quality and equipment manuals; calibration and maintenance schedules; material safety data sheets (MSDS) and safety procedures; material, production and product specifications; production and laboratory schedules; workplace recording and reporting procedures; waste minimisation and safe disposal procedures; cleaning, hygiene and personal hygiene requirements; stock records and inventory
- sampling procedures (labelling, preparation, storage, transport and disposal)
- test procedures (validated and authorised)

Electrophoretic methods for both analytical and

Electrophoretic methods, for both analytical and preparative procedures, include, but are not limited to, one or more of:

- vertical or horizontal apparatus

preparative procedures	• support materials, such as cellulose acetate • gels, such as agarose and polyacrylamide • buffer solutions • denaturing electrophoresis, such as SDS-PAGE • blot transfer procedures in conjunction with electrophoresis, such as Western and Southern Blot transfers, agarose and polyacrylamide DNA gels • capillary electrophoresis
Tests	Tests include, but are not limited to, methods for one or more of: • control of starting materials, in-process materials and finished products (e.g. food and manufacturing) • therapeutic drug analysis • forensic testing • diagnostic pathology tests • determination of chemical analytes • special conditions for handling minute sample volumes • environmental monitoring • problem-solving techniques for non-routine samples • troubleshooting workplace processes
Sample preparation	Sample preparation includes one or more of: • identification of any hazardous properties associated with the samples and/or analytical chemicals • processes, such as grinding, dissolving, extraction, centrifuging, refluxing, evaporation, washing and drying • determination of and, if appropriate, removal of any contaminants, impurities or interfering substances
Safe work practices	Safe work practices include, but are not limited to, one or more of: • ensuring access to service shut-off points • recognising and observing hazard warnings and safety signs • labelling of samples, reagents, aliquoted samples and hazardous materials • handling and storage of hazardous materials and equipment in accordance with labelling, MSDS and manufacturer instructions • identifying and reporting operating problems or equipment malfunctions • cleaning and decontaminating equipment and work areas

regularly using workplace procedures

- using PPE, such as gloves, safety glasses, coveralls and gowns
- using containment facilities (e.g. PCII, PCIII and PCIV physical containment laboratories), containment equipment (e.g. biohazard containers, laminar flow cabinets, Class I, II and III biohazard cabinets) and containment procedures
- following established manual handling procedures
- reporting abnormal emissions, discharges and airborne contaminants, such as noise, light, solids, liquids, water/wastewater, gases, smoke, vapour, fumes, odour and particulates, to appropriate personnel

WHS and environmental management requirements

WHS and environmental management requirements:

- complying with WHS and environmental management requirements at all times, which may be imposed through state/territory or federal legislation. These requirements must not be compromised at any time
- applying standard precautions relating to the potentially hazardous nature of samples
- accessing and applying current industry understanding of infection control issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and State and Territory Departments of Health, where relevant

Unit Mapping Information

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Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c63a03b-4a6b-4ae5-9560-1e3c5f462baa>

Assessment Requirements for MSL975008 Apply electrophoretic techniques

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Performance Evidence

Evidence of competence in this unit must satisfy all of the requirements of the elements and performance criteria, and include demonstration of:

- analysing samples using electrophoretic techniques on at least three (3) occasions to obtain valid and reliable data
- establishing client needs for routine and non-routine samples
- accurately interpreting client requests, test methods and procedures
- safely setting up, operating and shutting down equipment using workplace procedures
- checking the calibration and qualification status of equipment
- preparing samples using at least three (3) different processes
- preparing standards
- choosing and optimising procedures and equipment settings to suit sample/test requirements
- making approved adjustments to procedures for non-routine samples
- interpreting data, recognising atypical test data and results and making relevant conclusions
- troubleshooting common analytical procedure and equipment problems
- preparing and using calibration charts and standards
- identifying and calculating potential sources of uncertainty
- calculating results using appropriate equations, units, uncertainties and precision
- recording and reporting data and results in accordance with workplace procedures
- maintaining security, integrity and traceability of samples and documentation
- following safe working procedures.

Knowledge Evidence

Must provide evidence that demonstrates knowledge of:

- electrophoretic principles and concepts related to instrumentation operation, material preparation and testing
- details of electrophoresis techniques used to analyse samples relevant to job role
- handling of unstable or hazardous chemicals or samples and/or the fragile/labile nature of biological material
- sample preparation procedures
- function of key components of the equipment and effects on results of modifying instrumental variables, such as field strength, constant current and constant power

- procedures for optimising separation through changing operation parameters, such as buffers, pH and detection methods
- common analytical procedure and equipment problems, including:
 - interfering substances
 - inappropriate support material or operating procedures
 - toxic or hazardous materials, including impurities in samples
 - lack of suitable or high purity reference standards
 - changes in operating variables, such as field strength, constant current, constant power, buffers and pH
 - obtaining adequate sample volume
- basic procedure and equipment troubleshooting techniques
- calculation steps to give results in appropriate accuracy, precision, uncertainty and units
- workplace and/or legal traceability requirements
- basic equipment maintenance procedures
- relevant hazards, work health and safety (WHS) and environment requirements.

Assessment Conditions

- Judgment of competence must be based on holistic assessment of the evidence. Assessment methods must confirm consistency of performance over time, rather than a single assessment event.
- This unit of competency is to be assessed in the workplace or a simulated workplace environment. A simulated workplace environment must reflect realistic operational workplace conditions that cover all aspects of workplace performance, including the environment, task skills, task management skills, contingency management skills and job role environment skills.
- Foundation skills are integral to competent performance of the unit and should not be assessed separately.
- Assessment processes and techniques must be appropriate to the language, literacy and numeracy requirements of the work being performed and the needs of the candidate.
- Knowledge evidence may be collected concurrently with performance evidence or through an independent process, such as workbooks, written assessments or interviews (provided a record is kept in each case).
- This unit of competency may be assessed with:
 - MSL925001 Analyse data and report results
- Holistic assessment methods include:
 - review of test data/results obtained by the candidate over time to ensure accuracy, consistency and timeliness of results
 - inspection of test records and workplace documentation completed by the candidate
 - feedback from peers and supervisors
 - observation of candidate applying a range of electrophoretic techniques
 - oral or written questioning of chemical principles and concepts, electrophoretic techniques and workplace procedures.

- Access is required to instruments, equipment, materials, workplace documentation, procedures and specifications associated with this unit, including, but not limited to:
 - a standard laboratory equipped with routine electrophoresis equipment, laboratory reagents and equipment
 - standard operating procedures (SOPs) and testing methods.
- Assessors must satisfy the assessor competency requirements that are in place at the time of the assessment as set by the VET regulator.
- The assessor must demonstrate both technical competence and currency.
- Technical competence can be demonstrated through:
 - relevant VET or other qualification/Statement of Attainment AND/OR
 - relevant workplace experience.
- Currency can be demonstrated through:
 - performing the competency being assessed as part of current employment OR
 - having consulted with a laboratory about performing the competency being assessed within the last twelve months.

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