



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for MSL975025

Perform complex laboratory testing of forensic samples

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSL975025A Perform complex laboratory testing of forensic samples

Performance Evidence

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

- safely performing complex laboratory testing of forensic samples to produce valid and reliable results on at least three (3) occasions
- establishing client needs for routine and non-routine forensic samples
- completing chain of custody forms according to judicial and workplace requirements
- prioritising the evaluation of items of evidence to ensure sample integrity is maintained
- selecting suitable techniques and methods and modifying them if required
- sequencing and selecting forensic sample techniques and methods to maximise recovery of sample materials
- performing complex laboratory examinations in accordance with validated technique or method on standards, validation checks and samples
- applying theoretical knowledge and deductive processes to draw conclusions from test results
- recognising atypical test data and results
- communicating any problems to a supervisor or industry professional using current and appropriate terminology
- troubleshooting common analytical procedure and equipment problems
- ensuring all testing and reporting meets judicial requirements
- maintaining security, integrity and traceability of forensic samples, evidence, sub-samples, test data, results and documentation
- reporting results of forensic examinations and tests according to judicial and workplace protocols
- following workplace safety procedures.

Knowledge Evidence

Must provide evidence that demonstrates knowledge of:

- terminology and principles of locating, recording, collecting, storing, transporting, testing and reporting forensic samples and evidence
- legal, regulatory, policy, procedural and quality system requirements for the collection, preservation, security, continuity and disposal of forensic samples and evidence (exhibits)
- principles and concepts related to testing techniques and methods
- potential limitations of own specialist knowledge and when to seek advice from other services
- peer services available to assist laboratory examination, testing and interpretation of forensic samples
- review processes for examination of test findings
- 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:
 - MSL977003 Contribute to the validation of test methods
 - MSL975024 Locate, record and collect forensic samples
- Holistic assessment methods include:
 - review of test data, results and reports obtained by the candidate over a period of time to check accuracy, consistency and timeliness of results
 - review of workplace documentation and reports completed by the candidate
 - feedback from clients, peers, supervisors and/or industry professionals about the candidate's ability to conduct complex laboratory testing of forensic samples to produce valid and reliable results
 - observation of candidate testing a range of forensic samples and evidence
 - oral or written questioning of relevant chemical principles and concepts, analytical techniques, forensic protocols 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 with specialised analytical instruments, laboratory reagents and equipment, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and test 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.

Links

MSA Training Package Implementation Guides - <http://mskills.org.au/training-packages/info/>