



Australian Government

MSL975052 Locate, record and collect forensic samples

Release: 1

MSL975052 Locate, record and collect forensic samples

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version was released in <i>MSL Laboratory Operations Training Package Release 2.0</i>. Supersedes and equivalent to MSL975024 Locate record and collect forensic samples. Range of conditions removed. Assessment requirements amended. Equivalent outcome.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge to locate, record and collect evidence or samples that will be used for forensic examination or testing. Competency includes the ability to locate, collect, package, transport and store forensic samples.

This unit applies to technical officers working in all industry sectors and government agencies, such as food, forensic, medical and environmental laboratories. The term forensic is used to describe the collection of samples that may have legal implications, such as those collected to verify insurance claims or prove paternity for payment of maintenance.

All operations must comply with relevant standards, appropriate procedures and/or workplace requirements. Although a supervisor may not always be present, the technical officer will follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) that clearly describe the scope of permitted practice, including varying workplace/test procedures and communicating results to people outside the laboratory.

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.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Testing

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

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

- | | | | |
|---|---|-----|---|
| 1 | Prepare for evidence/sample collection | 1.1 | Locate evidence/sample using observation and appropriate detection methods |
| | | 1.2 | Identify appropriate sample collection methods |
| | | 1.3 | Prioritise the evaluation of items of evidence to ensure maintenance of sample integrity |
| | | | |
| 2 | Record locations and details of evidence/samples | 2.1 | Identify appropriate methods to record the evidence/samples in accordance with quality systems and within resource constraints |
| | | 2.2 | Record position of located evidence using a variety of appropriate techniques |
| | | 2.3 | Produce documented records of evidential material according to judicial and/or workplace guidelines |
| | | | |
| 3 | Collect evidence/samples | 3.1 | Collect sufficient number and quantity of evidence/samples to allow complete examination or analysis and to represent the mass of the physical evidence |
| | | 3.2 | Collect controls and reference samples where possible and appropriate |
| | | 3.3 | Collect latent evidence using physical or chemical methods |
| | | | |
| 4 | Package evidence/samples | 4.1 | Package, transport and store evidence/samples to ensure continuity and maintain integrity of forensic samples |
| | | 4.2 | Collect and document details of evidential material in case notes and/or in the evidence register to maintain chain of custody |
| | | | |
| 5 | Maintain a safe | 5.1 | Identify risks, hazards, safety equipment and procedures |

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

**work
environment**

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

associated with evidence/sample collection

- 5.2 Use personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety procedures specified
- 5.3 Minimise the generation of waste and environmental impacts
- 5.4 Ensure the safe disposal of waste
- 5.5 Clean, care for and store equipment and consumables in accordance with workplace 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

Equivalent to MSL975024 Locate record and collect forensic samples, Release 1.

Links

Training Package Companion Volumes -

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

Assessment Requirements for MSL975052 Locate, record and collect forensic samples

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Performance Evidence

There must be evidence the candidate has completed the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit, and:

- safely located, recorded, collected, packaged, transported and stored 3 different types of forensic samples and evidence, including:
 - using varied evidence and sample detection methods.

Knowledge Evidence

There must be evidence the candidate has knowledge of:

- terminology and principles of locating, recording, collecting, storing and transporting samples and evidence
- legislative, regulatory, policy, procedural and quality system requirements for the location, collection, preservation, security, continuity and disposal of samples and evidence (exhibits)
- potential limitations of own specialist knowledge and when to seek advice from other services
- services available to assist in the documenting, collection, preservation and continuity of forensic evidence and samples
- common reasons for collecting evidence and samples:
 - industrial accidents, fire and explosion, and disasters
 - criminal investigations
 - searches and evidence collection
 - contaminated sites
 - vehicle collisions and motor vehicles
- common sample collection methods:

- hand picking (including use of forceps and gloves)
- tape lifting
- sweeping and vacuuming
- swabbing
- liquid and solid sampling procedures
- common methods for recording the position of located evidence:
 - photographs
 - video
 - diagrams and sketches, hand written notes/documentation
 - computer data
 - global positioning system (GPS)
- common evidence and samples types:
 - any and all objects
 - development/enhancement/examination (such as use of poly light)
 - trace evidence examinations
 - biological samples, such as organs, hair, blood, semen and saliva
 - blood splatter patterns
 - clothing
 - documents
 - drugs
 - explosives
 - fibres
 - fingerprint development/enhancement/examination
 - fire debris
 - firearm and ammunition examinations
 - impressions
 - paint
 - petroleum products
 - powder residues
 - serial numbers
 - shoeprint and tyre marks
 - soils and minerals
 - toolmark examination
- conditions that effect packaging of samples:
 - physical nature of the evidence/sample
 - packaging medium
 - tamper evident seals
 - exhibit labels
 - drying of wet exhibits
 - storage temperature

- typical ways to maintain the integrity of samples:
 - use of appropriate sample containers (glass, plastic and opaque)
 - use of appropriate preservatives
 - wrapping container in foil to exclude light
 - temperature control, which may involve prevention of direct contact between the sample and coolant
 - use of appropriate equipment boxes (insulated, shockproof and waterproof)
 - restraint of containers to prevent movement
 - checking sample viability during transport while avoiding unnecessary handling
- principles and purpose of test methods implemented (why they are used and what they demonstrate)
- technological advances that include automation
- awareness of environmental sustainability issues as they relate to the work task
- legal, ethical and work health and safety (WHS) requirements specific to the work task including traceability, confidentiality and security requirements of all client information, and laboratory data and records.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must have been demonstrated in the workplace or in a simulated environment that reflects workplace conditions and contingencies. The following conditions must be met for this unit:

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources, including:
 - workplace procedures and standard methods
 - sample containers
 - containers for transporting samples.

Assessors must satisfy the NVR/AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

Links

Training Package Companion Volumes -

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