



Australian Government

MSL975068 Apply complex instrumental techniques

Release: 1

MSL975068 Apply complex instrumental techniques

Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and equivalent to MSL975047 Apply complex instrumental techniques. Content of Element 6 integrated into Element 5. Minor changes to Performance Criteria.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge to analyse samples using specialised analytical instruments that require highly-developed technical skills to operate effectively. Competency includes the ability to establish 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 applies to technical officers working in all industry sectors, government agencies and research laboratories. 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 technical officer will follow workplace procedures 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

MSL974032 Perform chemical tests and procedures

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. Establish client needs	1.1 Liaise with client or sample provider to determine client needs and sample history 1.2 Match sample provided to accompanying documentation and report

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	any discrepancies in accordance with workplace procedures 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.
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 and/or calibration standards for analytical portions
3. Set up and optimise instrument and sub-systems	3.1 Perform pre-use and safety checks in accordance with workplace procedures 3.2 Assemble appropriate instrument sub-systems to construct the required analytical path 3.3 Start up and condition the instrument in accordance with workplace procedures 3.4 Check and optimise each instrument sub-system 3.5 Optimise instrumental parameters to suit sample and test requirements 3.6 Check calibration status of instrument and perform any required calibration using specified standards and procedures 3.7 Clean, care for and store equipment and consumables in accordance with workplace procedures
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 in accordance with workplace procedures
5. Process, analyse and record data	5.1 Confirm data are 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, uncertainty and units 5.4 Analyse trends in data and/or results and report out-of-specification

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	or atypical results promptly to appropriate personnel 5.5 Troubleshoot analytical procedure or equipment problems which have led to atypical data or results 5.6 Follow procedures to ensure traceability of sample from receipt to reporting of results

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 MSL975047 Apply complex instrumental 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>

Assessment Requirements for MSL975068 Apply complex instrumental techniques

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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:

- used a specialised analytical instrument to analyse 3 different complex samples and obtain valid and reliable data.
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Knowledge Evidence

There must be evidence the candidate has knowledge of:

- principles and concepts associated with a specialised analytical instrument's operation and analytical procedure or test method
- handling of unstable or hazardous chemicals and samples and the fragile and labile nature of biological materials
- sample preparation procedures
- functions of key components and sub-systems of the instrument and the effects on outputs and results of modifying instrumental variables
- specialised analytical instruments
- procedures for ultra-trace samples and standard preparation
- tests requiring specialised analytical instruments, including:
 - trace analysis
 - non-destructive testing
 - multi-analyte determination
 - analysis involving high sample throughput
- instrument sub-systems, including:
 - sample introduction units and auto sampling equipment
 - detectors and signal conditioning units
 - temperature control devices
 - software control/interface
- workplace procedures for:
 - instrument performance optimisation
 - equipment operation and troubleshooting techniques
 - common analytical procedure and equipment problems, including:

- sample introduction blockages
- incomplete atomisation of analyte
- poor resolution of peaks
- poor sensitivity
- calculation steps to give results in appropriate accuracy, precision, uncertainty and units
- equipment maintenance
- 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.
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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:
 - a standard laboratory
 - specialised analytical instruments, laboratory reagents and equipment
 - workplace procedures and test methods.

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

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