



Australian Government

MSL976004 Prepare plans and quality assurance procedures for environmental field activities

Release: 1

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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 MSL976002 Prepare plans and quality assurance procedures for environmental field activities. Prerequisites updated. Foundation skill information added. Range of conditions removed. Assessment requirements amended.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge to use a systematic planning process to develop plans and quality assurance procedures covering multiple environmental field monitoring or survey activities for a wide range of environmental systems. The unit covers both defining the purpose of the environmental field activities and establishing their overall requirements. These requirements will involve the collection of appropriate data, the monitoring/survey methodologies to be used, and the design and documentation of a final overall implementation plan that includes budget, training and resource requirements. This unit of competency does not cover the development of monitoring or survey protocols.

This unit applies to laboratory supervisors and managers working in the environmental industry sector. All operations must comply with relevant standards, appropriate procedures and/or workplace requirements.

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

MSL975042 Design and supervise complex environmental field surveys

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 Establish the overall requirements of the field activities	1.1 Identify key stakeholders along with their potential interests, sensitivities, roles and responsibilities
	1.2 Clarify the purpose and general objectives of the field activities with stakeholders and the level/detail of information required
	1.3 Identify and accurately interpret all statutory requirements that apply to the field activities
	1.4 Identify and interpret all existing workplace requirements associated with field monitoring and/or survey activities
	1.5 Analyse drivers and constraints that may influence field activities
	1.6 Refine and document the detailed objectives of the field activities with senior management and key stakeholders
2 Scope all requirements to collect appropriate data under field conditions	2.1 Identify the type, quantity and quality of data needed to meet the defined objectives
	2.2 Identify sites or areas and resources required for all planned field activities
	2.3 Define data quality procedures that must be incorporated in all field activities
	2.4 Identify risks, environmental and safety issues associated with field activities
	2.5 Inspect all sites or areas and assess them against defined requirements and any standards that apply to the field activities
	2.6 Refine and document all requirements necessary to collect appropriate field data
3 Select and adapt field protocols	3.1 Identify field protocols that may be suitable for the defined field activities

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covering the field activities	3.2	Review and select the most appropriate field protocol for the defined field activities	
	3.3	Develop and document detailed methodologies, risk management plans and general time schedules covering all the planned field activities	
4 Design and document a detailed implementation plan	4.1	Define all staff tasks, roles and responsibilities and the overall staff work program	
	4.2	Identify and list all resources needed to undertake all planned field activities and associated pre- and post-field activities	
	4.3	Design and document an overall implementation plan covering all workplace field activities	
	4.4	Outline the objectives, field methodologies and data quality procedures covered in the implementation plan to all stakeholders	
5 Prepare a financial budget and staff training and work programs	5.1	Develop a detailed budget, including contingencies covering all planned field activities	
	5.2	Develop detailed staff work programs for individual field activities in the context of the implementation plan	
	5.3	Identify competencies required to undertake all field activities and develop appropriate training programs for staff involved in field activities	

Foundation Skills

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

- Oral communication skills to:
 - negotiate effectively with stakeholders about multiple issues to reach satisfactory agreements

- clearly convey the details of plans to staff, clients, stakeholders and other relevant parties.

Other foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit.

Unit Mapping Information

Equivalent to MSL976002 Prepare plans and quality assurance procedures for environmental field activities, Release 1.

Links

Training Package Companion Volumes -

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

Assessment Requirements for MSL976004 Prepare plans and quality assurance procedures for environmental field activities

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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:

- developed at 1 set of quality assurance procedures that cover multiple environmental field monitoring or survey activities
- designed and documented an effective overall implementation plan for 1 field activity that includes a budget, work program, quality procedures, training and resource requirements.

Knowledge Evidence

There must be evidence the candidate has knowledge of:

- requirements of environmental legislation, regulations, policies, planning and assessment procedures relevant to field activities
- terminology relevant to defined field activities
- typical types of environmental field activities:
 - meteorology, geology, hydrology and ecology
 - water quality, industrial waste streams, air quality, noise and vibration
 - soils, flora, weeds, native fauna, exotic or pest species and threatened species
 - land use and cultural sites
- the purpose of the field activities, including:
 - information and analysis required
 - end users of information
 - significance of outcomes for broader programs
 - general field monitoring and survey protocols
- common drivers and constraints, such as:

- political agendas, social and economic issues
- new monitoring protocols
- recent environmental impact assessments or audits
- media or public concerns
- recent judicial decisions
- field safety or accident issues
- competencies and availability of staff
- typical clients and stakeholders:
 - fee-for-service clients
 - Commonwealth, state/territory and local government agencies
 - workplaces with monitoring and/or survey responsibilities
 - private companies
 - regulatory authorities
 - environment protection agencies
 - developers
- current developments in field instrumentation, communication equipment and data storage/analysis systems relevant to field activities
- workplace procedures and methods for:
 - site-specific field monitoring and survey practices and techniques
 - data quality for the field activities
 - staff training
- 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.

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:
 - legislation, regulations, policies, codes of practice, workplace procedures and field protocols
 - resources required for field activities.
- modelling of industry operating conditions, including:
- interact with staff and stakeholders.

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

Links

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