



Australian Government

MSS017003 Identify and respond to external sustainability factors for an organisation

Release: 1

MSS017003 Identify and respond to external sustainability factors for an organisation

Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSS017003A Identify and respond to external sustainability factors for an organisation.

Application

This unit of competency covers the recognition of external sustainability related factors which are relevant to the organisation and then developing an appropriate response. It may be applied to an entire organisation, part of a large organisation, or part or all of a value chain.

A manager or senior technologist who has a significant sustainability responsibility work role would typically undertake the scanning of factors which influence an organisation and its environment, identifying those which relate to sustainability and require a response or where a response would benefit the organisation and then developing or organising an appropriate response. The organisation's environment, for the purpose of this unit, is considered to include the ecology it impacts, the economic impacts on the organisation and the social impacts of the organisation.

Skills covered by this unit may be applied individually or in a team context.

This unit will lead to the identification of sustainability responses by the organisation in response to external factors.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Sustainable operations

Unit Sector

Not applicable

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 | Monitor external | 1.1 | Monitor relevant government legislation and regulation. |
|---|-------------------------|-----|---|

	environment for sustainability related factors	1.2	Monitor relevant government initiatives and programs.
		1.3	Monitor customer expectations.
		1.4	Monitor market trends and competitor actions.
		1.5	Monitor expectations of communities impacted by organisation.
		1.6	Identify factors which are relevant to the organisation.
		1.7	Rank factors by significance.
2	Develop alternative responses to external factors	2.1	Agree which factor or factors should be responded to now.
		2.2	Determine minimum response required.
		2.3	Compare impact of factors with organisation's strategic direction.
		2.4	Develop alternative responses which fit organisations strategic direction.
		2.5	Analyse sustainability impacts for each practical response.
		2.6	Consult relevant stakeholders.
		2.7	Rank possible responses.
3	Communicate with relevant stakeholders	3.1	Identify relevant stakeholders.
		3.2	Determine stakeholder information needs and wants.
		3.3	Analyse data which may be appropriate to communicate with stakeholders.
		3.4	Prepare and disseminate information to stakeholders, as appropriate.
		3.5	Negotiate solutions with stakeholders, as required.
4	Prepare response	4.1	Agree on response to be progressed now.

	for factor or factors	4.2	Prepare business case for response.
		4.3	Agree possible future action for other factors.
5	Communicate required responses	5.1	Identify what communications are required and to whom.
		5.2	Prepare appropriate reports and recommendations.
		5.3	Pitch reports and recommendations, as appropriate.
		5.4	Brief appropriate persons as required by determined responses.
		5.5	Finalise appropriate recording.

Foundation Skills

This section describes those required skills (language, literacy and numeracy) 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.

Sustainability incorporates all of	• survival of the ecology/physical environment (to manage the impact of the business to ensure the survival of the physical environment) • economic viability (efficiency, cost and waste reduction and competitiveness to support survival of the business) • social sustainability (to manage the impact of the business to ensure its continued survival within the community and the survival of the community).
Factors external to the organisation include one or more	• government (at any level) legislation or regulation • government (at any level) direct action programs or similar • government (at any level) incentives or similar

of

- customer expectations
- community expectations
- market trends
- competitor actions
- other factors.

Sustainability issues of particular relevance include one or more of

- particular sensitivities of the local ecology (e.g. endangered species, sensitive local flora/fauna, material scarcity, water availability)
- general ecology issues and regulations (e.g. climate change and carbon footprint, pollution control measures)
- particular local social issues (e.g. distortions to the housing market, disruption to local lifestyles)
- general social issues (e.g. corporate citizenship, use or/deterioration to infrastructure)
- particular local economic issues (e.g. cost of capital, profit margins, competition)
- general economic issues (e.g. state of the economy, stage of the business cycle).

Significance of impact includes one or more of

- permanent loss or degradation
- loss or degradation which inhibits use by the following generation
- temporary degradation requiring remediation
- temporary degradation which is self-remediating
- speed of change/degradation/loss.

Sustainability impacts which cannot be prevented require mitigation and amelioration techniques which include one or more of

- capture and storage (e.g. scrubbing) and similar ‘end of pipe’ solutions
- dilution/dispersion and similar techniques which reduce concentration but not amount
- other approaches which meet the sustainability requirements.

Unit Mapping Information

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSS017003A Identify and respond to external sustainability factors for an organisation.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5b04f318-804f-4dc0-9463-c3fb9a3fe998>

Assessment Requirements for MSS017003 Identify and respond to external sustainability factors for an organisation

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Performance Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy the requirements of the elements and performance criteria and include the ability, across an organisation or section/department, to:

- recognise relevant external sustainability factors
- develop appropriate responses to these external factors
- determine which responses proceed
- communicate required responses.

Knowledge Evidence

- Must provide evidence that demonstrates sufficient knowledge to interact with relevant personnel and be able to identify and respond to external sustainability factors including knowledge of:
- process and changes which occur at each step in selected value chain
- principles of sustainability
- current actual and possible sources of external sustainability factors relevant to the organisation
- possible responses for improving sustainability
- root cause analysis
- hierarchy of hazard control and its application to sustainability hazards

relevant legislation, regulation and protocols, government incentives and other initiatives risk analysis and its application to sustainability risks.

Assessment Conditions

- The unit should be assessed holistically and the judgement of competence shall be based on a holistic assessment of the evidence.
- The collection of performance evidence is best done from a report and/or folio of evidence drawn from:
 - a single project which provides sufficient evidence of the requirements of all the elements and performance criteria
 - multiple smaller projects which together provide sufficient evidence of the requirements of all the elements and performance criteria.

- A third party report, or similar, may be needed to testify to the work done by the individual, particularly when the project has been done as part of a project team.
- Assessment should use a real project where factors that influence an organisation and its environment that relate to sustainability are scanned, identified and responded to, for the benefit of the organisation, in an operational workplace.
- 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).
- 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.
- Conditions for assessment must include access to all tools, equipment, materials and documentation required including relevant workplace procedures, product and manufacturing specifications associated with this unit.
- Foundation skills are integral to competent performance of the unit and should not be assessed separately.
- 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 competency 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 an organisation providing relevant environmental monitoring, management or technology services about performing the competency being assessed within the last twelve months.

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