



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for MSS025013

Assist with assessing and monitoring wetlands

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSS025013A Assist with assessing and monitoring wetlands

Performance Evidence

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

- planning and conducting at least one (1) desktop activity to assess and report on aspects of wetland condition
- planning and safely conducting survey/monitoring activities on at least one (1) occasion to assess and report on aspects of wetland condition
- accurately interpreting relevant regulations, standards, guidelines, work instructions, workplace procedures, guidelines and manuals
- locating and evaluating available environmental data sets and wetland information
- using available data to identify known wetland boundaries, characteristics, condition and environmental issues relevant to desktop/field activities
- setting up, checking and operating sampling/measuring equipment in accordance with manuals and/or workplace procedures
- following specified sampling methods/procedures to ensure that samples are representative, viable and traceable
- following specified test methods to obtain reliable in-situ measurements
- making 'objective' observations based on clear criteria
- estimating numbers of flora and fauna, % coverage, and measuring dimensions and areas
- accurately recording and/or storing field data
- assessing quality of field data, recognising anomalies, identifying and rectifying basic instrument faults
- assigning assessment scores, index values, health index/rating, and calculating scientific quantities, uncertainties and unit conversion factors
- providing detailed descriptions of wetland characteristics, existing conditions, management values and environmental issues that may impact on current wetland management objectives/practices
- seeking advice when issues/problems are beyond scope of competence/responsibility
- communicating effectively with others, such as workplace staff, members of the public, clients, landowners and consultants
- providing documentation that meets user needs, is in the required format, and delivered within the agreed timeframe
- transporting, cleaning, maintaining and storing field equipment in accordance with workplace procedures

- following procedures for working safely and minimising environmental impacts and waste.

Knowledge Evidence

Must provide evidence that demonstrates knowledge of:

- basic terminology and principles of wetland assessment, monitoring and management relevant to job role
- sources of wetland information (e.g. directories, indexes, data sets and assessment tools)
- defining characteristics and functions of major wetland types
- fundamental principles of ecology and assessment of site environmental indicators
- environmental factors that impact on soils, water quality, population and diversity of flora and fauna
- specific legislation, policies and guidelines relevant to desktop/field activities
- procedures and equipment for collecting soil, water, (micro) biological samples and environmental measurements (e.g. water)
- procedures and equipment for maintaining, storing and transporting samples/specimens to ensure their wellbeing, viability and integrity
- procedures and equipment for conducting basic spatial and environmental measurements
- workplace procedures for the recording of field data and reporting of findings
- protocols for the confidentiality and security of information and communicating with the community and media
- relevant hazards, health, safety and environment requirements.

Assessment Conditions

- Judgement 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).
- Holistic assessment methods include:
 - review of the accuracy and completeness of data, records and results prepared by the candidate

- review of findings/reports prepared by the candidate, including details of wetland characteristics, existing conditions, management values and environmental issues that may impact on current wetland management objectives/practices
- feedback from supervisors that the candidate can plan and conduct desktop/field activities efficiently, work safely and provide reliable results within the agreed timeframe
- oral and/or written questions to assess the candidate's understanding of the use of environmental data sets and the findings of surveys and monitoring to develop wetland inventories, assess and monitor the condition of wetlands and/or develop wetland management plans.
- Access is required to all instruments, equipment, materials, workplace documentation, procedures, and specifications associated with this unit including, but not limited to:
 - access to a range of wetlands
 - relevant sampling equipment, field instruments and materials
 - documentation, including wetlands system information, environmental data sets, user manuals, workplace safety procedures, test/survey methods, survey proformas, data collection forms and field identification guides, workplace procedures, test methods and equipment manuals.
- 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 environmental monitoring, management or technology related services about performing the competency being assessed within the last twelve months.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

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