



Australian Government

PMAOPS202 Operate fluid mixing equipment

Release: 1

PMAOPS202 Operate fluid mixing equipment

Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to PMAOPS202B Operate fluid mixing equipment

Application

This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to operate fluid mixers found in fluid processing plants.

This unit of competency applies to operators who are required to operate, monitor and maintain equipment using relevant procedures and contribute to a safe working environment. This unit of competency is typically performed by all operators using mixing equipment.

This unit of competency applies to an individual who may work alone although under routine direction and supervision. They may work as part of a team or group and will work in liaison with other shift team members and the control room operator, as appropriate.

In a typical scenario an operator uses a baffled mixing tank (or other mixer) to make a product to specification. This covers the loading of liquid and perhaps solid materials into the mixing equipment. In this example the operator monitors the mixing to ensure the components are dispersed appropriately and checks the resulting product to ensure it complies.

This unit of competency covers the mixing of two or more materials to make a product. This may be achieved through various means ranging from continuous mixing processes as typically found in oil plants to batch mixing as commonly used in chemical plants and paint manufacture.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Operations

Unit Sector

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 | Prepare for work | 1.1 | Receive and give shift handover |
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| | | 1.2 | Identify work requirements |
| | | 1.3 | Identify and control hazards |
| | | 1.4 | Coordinate with appropriate personnel |
| | | 1.5 | Check for recent work undertaken on plant item |
| | | 1.6 | Note any outstanding/incomplete work |
| | | 1.7 | Check operational status of fluid mixing equipment |
| 2 | Prepare mixing equipment | 2.1 | Identify type of fluid mixer |
| | | 2.2 | Identify appropriate applications for the mixer type |
| | | 2.3 | Check materials |
| 3 | Operate fluid mixing equipment in accordance with procedures | 3.1 | Charge materials |
| | | 3.2 | Start up/shut down fluid mixing equipment |
| | | 3.3 | Adjust mixing conditions |
| | | 3.4 | Check product |
| | | 3.5 | Adjust product as instructed or to procedure |
| | | 3.6 | Discharge product |
| | | 3.7 | Complete routine checks and reports, taking action on unexpected readings and trends |
| 4 | Recognise and take appropriate action on abnormal situations | 4.1 | Monitor fluid mixing equipment frequently and critically throughout shift using measured/indicated data and senses |
| | | 4.2 | Identify impacts of any changes upstream and downstream |
| | | 4.3 | Recognise situations which may require action |
| | | 4.4 | Resolve routine problems |

		4.5	Take actions in accordance with procedures on other abnormal situations to make safe and have the situation resolved
5	Isolate and de-isolate equipment	5.1	Complete any required pre-start checks
		5.2	Start up/shut down/changeover fluid mixing equipment according to the equipment type and duty in liaison with other personnel
		5.3	Isolate plant
		5.4	Make safe for required work
		5.5	Check plant is ready to be returned to service
		5.6	De-isolate and prepare plant for return to service

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.

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.

Regulatory framework	The latest version of all legislation, regulations, industry codes of practice and Australian/international standards, or the version specified by the local regulatory authority, must be used, and include one or more of the following: • legislative requirements, including work health and safety (WHS) • industry codes of practice and guidelines • environmental regulations and guidelines • Australian and other standards • licence and certification requirements
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All operations to which this unit applies are subject to stringent health, safety and environment (HSE) requirements, which may be imposed through

state/territory or federal legislation, and these must not be compromised at any time. Where there is an apparent conflict between performance criteria and HSE requirements, the HSE requirements take precedence.

Hazards

Hazards include one or more of the following:

- smoke, darkness and heat
- dust or other atmospheric hazards
- electricity
- gas
- gases and liquids under pressure
- structural hazards
- structural collapse
- equipment failures
- industrial (machinery, equipment and product)
- equipment or product mass
- noise, rotational equipment or vibration
- plant services (steam, condensate and cooling water)
- limited head spaces or overhangs
- working at heights, in restricted or confined spaces, or in environments subjected to heat, noise, dusts or vapours or other atmospheric hazards
- flammability and explosivity
- hazardous products and materials
- unauthorised personnel
- sharp edges, protrusions or obstructions
- slippery surfaces, spills or leaks
- extreme weather
- other hazards that might arise

Equipment

Equipment includes one or more of the following:

- mixers for low, medium and high viscosity fluids
- jet mixing
- top and side entry mixers
- propeller, and pitched and square bladed turbine impellers

Routine problems

Routine problems must be resolved by applying known solutions.

Routine problems are predictable and include one or more of the following:

- incorrect mixing time

- incorrect power consumption
- uniformity issues
- vortexing
- aeration

Known solutions are drawn from one or more of the following:

- procedures
- training
- remembered experience

Non-routine problems must be reported according to according to relevant procedures.

Resolve routine problems

Resolving routine problems includes changing one or more of the following:

- position and angle of baffles where appropriate
- impellor (angle, size, shape or speed)
- feed rate of fluids

Mixing conditions

Mixing conditions will be adjusted by one or more of the following:

- baffles
- mixer speed
- mixing duration

Start up/shut down as required

Start up/shut down as required includes the following:

- start up and shut down to/from normal operating conditions
- start up and shut down to/from isolated, cold or empty
- start up and shut down to/from other conditions/situations experienced on the plant

Action on abnormal situations

Action on abnormal situations includes the following:

- determining problems needing action
- determining possible fault causes
- rectifying problem using appropriate solution within area of responsibility
- following through items initiated until final resolution has occurred
- reporting problems outside area of responsibility to designated person

Procedures All operations must be performed in accordance with relevant procedures.

Procedures are written, verbal, visual, computer-based or in some other form, and include one or more of the following:

- emergency procedures
- work instructions
- standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- safe work method statements (SWMS)
- formulas/recipes
- batch sheets
- temporary instructions
- any similar instructions provided for the smooth running of the plant

Operate Operate is to monitor, adjust/change the plant item/unit/system to meet specifications, by one or more of the following:

- manually in the plant
- using local controller in the plant
- using the process control system in the control room

Unit Mapping Information

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Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=9fc2cf53-e570-4e9f-ad6a-b228ffdb6875>

Assessment Requirements for PMAOPS202 Operate fluid mixing equipment

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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 demonstrate the ability to:

- apply pre-start, start-up and shutdown procedures
- monitor and operate mixing equipment to meet specifications
- recognise early warning signs of equipment/processes needing attention or with potential problems
- determine the most likely cause of routine problems
- take appropriate action to ensure a timely return to full performance
- isolate and de-isolate equipment
- identify hazards and apply hazard control procedures.
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Knowledge Evidence

Evidence must be provided that demonstrates knowledge of:

- all items on a schematic of the mixing system and the function of each
- fluid mixing principles including shear, viscosity and concepts of uniformity
- principles of operation of fluid mixing equipment
- physics of operation
- correct methods of starting, stopping, operating and controlling mixing equipment
- typical mixing problems, and their causes and remedy, within operator's scope of skill level and responsibility
- hazards that may arise in the job/work environment, and:
 - their possible causes
 - potential consequences
 - appropriate risk controls
- environmental requirements related to waste disposal
- relevant alarms and actions
- plant process idiosyncrasies
- routine problems, faults and their resolution
- function and troubleshooting of major components and their problems
- corrective action appropriate to the problem cause
- communication protocols (e.g. radio, phone, computer, paper and permissions/authorities).

Assessment Conditions

- The unit should be assessed holistically and the judgement of competence based on a holistic assessment of the evidence.
- The collection of performance evidence:
 - should occur over a range of situations which include typical disruptions to normal, smooth operation of an operating plant
 - will typically include a supervisor third-party report or other evidence, focusing on consistent performance and problem recognition and solving. A supervisor/third-party report must be prepared by someone who has a direct, relevant, current relationship with the person being assessed and who is in a position to form a judgement on workplace performance relevant to the unit of competency
 - must include the use of an appropriate industrial item of equipment requiring demonstration of operation, start-up and shutdown procedures and responding to problems
 - may use industry-based simulation for part only of the unit where safety, lack of opportunity or significant cost is an issue.
- Assessment should occur in operational workplace situations. Where this is not possible, or where personal safety or environmental damage are limiting factors, assessment must occur in a sufficiently rigorous simulated environment reflecting realistic operational workplace conditions. This must cover all aspects of workplace performance, including environment, task skills, task management skills, contingency management skills and job role environment skills.
- Assessment in a simulated environment should use evidence collected from one or more of:
 - walk-throughs
 - pilot plant operation
 - demonstration of skills
 - industry-based case studies/scenarios
 - ‘what ifs’.
- Knowledge evidence may be collected concurrently with performance evidence (provided a record is kept) 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.
- The regulatory framework will be reflected in workplace policies and procedures and is not required to be independently assessed.
- 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.

- In addition, the assessor or anyone acting in subject matter expert role in assessment must demonstrate both technical competency and currency. If the assessor cannot demonstrate technical competency and currency they must assess with a subject matter expert who does meet these requirements.
- Technical competence can be demonstrated through one or more of:
 - relevant VET or other qualification/Statement of Attainment
 - appropriate workplace experience undertaking the type of work being assessed under routine and non-routine conditions
 - appropriate workplace experience supervising/evaluating the type of work being assessed under routine and non-routine conditions
- Currency can be demonstrated through one or more of:
 - being currently employed undertaking the type of work being assessed
 - being employed by the organisation undertaking the type of work being assessed and having maintained currency in accordance with that organisation's policies and procedures
 - having consulted/had contact with an organisation undertaking the type of work being assessed within the last twelve months, the consultation/contact being related to assessment
 - conducting on-the-job training/assessments of the type of work being assessed
 - being an active member of a relevant professional body and participating in activities relevant to the assessment of this type of work

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