



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

PMBPROD211B Operate blow moulding equipment

Revision Number: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor

This competency covers the operation of blow moulding equipment and the resolving of routine problems to procedure.

Application of the Unit

Application of this unit

This competency applies to operators who are required to undertake the routine operation of blow moulding equipment. This competency is typically performed by operators working either independently or as part of a work team.

The operator:

- takes product off the machine,
- checks product for quality and conformity to specifications
- checks raw material feed
- notices any problems and takes required action (e.g.reporting)
- deals with non-conforming products, waste and scrap
- completes logs and reports.

They may record key variables such as machine conditions and production rate and reasons for interruptions.

This unit does not include:

- packing of product - see *MSASUP204A Pack products or materials*
- finishing of product - see *PMBFIN201 Finish products and components*.
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Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisites

This unit has **no** prerequisites.

Employability Skills Information

Employability Skills

This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency	Performance Criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the Element. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the Evidence Guide.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA Performance Criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the Element. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the Evidence Guide.
1. Check work requirements.	1.1 Identify work requirements from production plan or request. 1.2 Check product, materials and equipment meet requirements for job(s). 1.3 Recognise requirements which may not be in accordance with usual practice. 1.4 Ask questions of appropriate person to confirm unusual practice. 1.5 Ensure housekeeping is to requirements. 1.6 Identify hazards associated with the job and take appropriate action. 1.7 Perform other pre-operational checks in accordance with procedures.
2. Start up blow moulding equipment to procedures.	2.1 Conduct pre-start checks. 2.2 Start up equipment safely and 'dry run' to warm hydraulics and components to operating temperature before production, as required. 2.3 Check condition of equipment and introduce raw materials as required.
3. Operate blow moulding equipment to procedures.	3.1 Check process is operating within required limits. 3.2 Check product is in specification and to required quality standard. 3.3 Ensure product is consistently ready for next operation. 3.4 Maintain supply of material(s) as required. 3.5 Complete logs and records as required. 3.6 Collect and segregate scrap, trim and other materials as required. 3.7 Keep equipment and work area clean . 3.8 Pause machine cycle and perform emergency stop, as required.
4. Respond to routine problems to procedures.	4.1 Identify likely faults that occur during the operation. 4.2 Identify and take action on causes of routine faults in accordance with procedures. 4.3 Make sure appropriate records and log books of

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	equipment operations are maintained to meet procedures. 4.4 Identify non-routine problems and report to designated person.

Required Skills and Knowledge

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level required for this unit.

Application of an operational knowledge of the materials, equipment and process sufficient to recognise out of specification products, process problems and materials faults. For example, the product may not be fully inflated, leading to undersized and malformed product. Blow pressure may be insufficient or the compressed air supply may be partially blocked.

Knowledge of organisation procedures and relevant regulatory requirements along with the ability to implement them within appropriate time constraints and work standards. For example action must only be taken if the parison mass varies by more than 2 grams.

Application of the knowledge of managing risks using the hierarchy of controls applied to the blow moulding process. Application of approved hazard control, safety procedures and the use of PPE in relation to handling materials, equipment operation and cleanup.

Knowledge of and skills in the operation of blow moulding equipment and main components sufficient for consistent production of quality products including:

- production workflow sequences and materials demand
- the reasons for checking process control panels and reporting readings which are outside of normal range of process variability
- accurately monitoring equipment operation and product quality
- purpose and requirements of 'dry running' before starting production
- the potential effects of variations in raw materials and equipment operation in relation to quality of product
- processing behaviour of polymers and the role of additives
- waste management and knowing the importance of reusing non-conforming products wherever possible
- correct selection and use of equipment, materials, processes and procedures
- explain the effect of unauthorised or emergency shutdown in relation to safety and production requirements
- identify factors which may affect product quality or production output and appropriate remedies.

Competence also includes the ability to:

- plan own work, including predicting consequences and identifying improvements
- identify when the operator is able to rectify faults, when assistance is required and who is the appropriate source for assistance
- identify and describe own role and role of others involved directly in the blow moulding process.

Language, literacy and numeracy requirements

This unit requires the ability to read and interpret typical product specifications, job sheets, procedures, basic machine control panels, material labels and safety information as provided to operators.

Writing is required to the level of completing workplace forms.

Basic numeracy is required, (eg to determine that two 25 kg bags are needed for a requirement for 50 kg).

Evidence Guide

The Evidence Guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the Performance Criteria, required skills and knowledge, the Range Statement and the Assessment Guidelines for this Training Package.

Overview of assessment

A holistic approach should be taken to the assessment.

Assessors must be satisfied that the person can consistently perform the unit as a whole, as defined by the Elements, Performance Criteria and skills and knowledge.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

It is essential that competence is demonstrated in the knowledge and skills defined in this unit. These may include the ability to:

- apply the required skills and knowledge to operate a blow moulding machine
- apply approved procedures.

Consistent performance should be demonstrated. For example, look to see that blow moulding production standards are met consistently.

Assessment method and context

Assessment will occur on an industrial blow moulding machine(s) equipment and will be undertaken in a work-like environment.

Competence in this unit may be assessed:

- by using an appropriate, industrial blow moulding machine requiring demonstration of operation and emergency stop procedures
- in a situation allowing for the generation of evidence of the ability to respond to problems
- by using a suitable simulation and/or a range of case studies/scenarios
- through a combination of these techniques.

In all cases it is expected that practical assessment will be combined with targeted questioning to assess the underpinning knowledge and theoretical assessment will be combined with appropriate practical/simulation or similar assessment. Assessors need to be aware of any cultural issues that may affect responses to questions.

Assessment processes and techniques must be culturally appropriate and appropriate to the oracy, language and literacy capacity of the assessee and the work being performed.

Specific resources for assessment

This section should be read in conjunction with the Range Statement for this unit of competency. Resources required include suitable access to an operating plant or equipment that allows for appropriate and realistic simulation. A bank of case studies/scenarios and questions will also be required to the extent that they form part of the assessment method. Questioning may take place either in the workplace, or in an adjacent, quiet facility such as an office or lunchroom. No other special resources are required.

Access must be provided to appropriate learning and/or assessment support when required. Where applicable, physical resources should include equipment modified for people with disabilities.

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The Range Statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Add any essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts. Where reference is made to industry codes of practice, and/or Australian/international standards, the latest version must be used.

Context

This competency applies to all blow moulding operations within the plastics and rubber sectors. It includes the operation of all relevant additional equipment where that equipment is integral to the blow moulding process.

Procedures

All operations are performed in accordance with procedures.

Procedures include all relevant workplace procedures, work instructions, temporary instructions and relevant industry and government codes and standards.

Tools and equipment

This competency includes use of equipment and tools such as:

- bottom blow, top blow, needle blow, tail to tail blow, parison
- pre-blow and pre-squeeze, parison stretching and parison orientation type machines
- ancillary equipment (such as chillers/cooling towers, die heating equipment, hopper driers, mixing hoppers, dehumidifying driers, air compressors, dosing machines, colour blending equipment and conveyors)
- hand tools used in the blow moulding process
- material loading equipment used for loading of raw materials
- relevant personal protective equipment.

Hazards

Typical hazards include:

- spills
- dusts/vapours
- slip and fall (such as due to spilt granules)
- temperature (such as due to heated moulds)
- hazardous substances (including decomposing polymer during start up and shut down)
- moving equipment (such as moving moulds, robots and ancillary equipment)
- manual handling hazards.

Problems

'Respond to routine problems' means 'apply known solutions to a limited range of predictable problems'. Typical process and product problems may include:

- equipment malfunction
- variations in temperature, pressure, speed, inflation
- variations in materials or contamination of materials
- incorrect quantity of materials/additives
- die damage
- routine blow moulding faults (eg wall thinning, holes, poor surface finish, warping, poor colour dispersion, ejection damage, colour contamination, black spots and other defects)
- machine malfunction
- die/tooling problems.

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Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.