



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

RIIPBE304B Conduct heavy media separation

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

This unit covers the conduct of heavy media separation in the mining industry. It includes planning and preparing for heavy media separation, starting up equipment in sequence, operating and monitoring equipment, conducting housekeeping activities, and shutting down in sequence and/or isolating equipment. Licensing, legislative, regulatory and certification requirements that apply to this unit can vary between states, territories, and industry sectors. Relevant information must be sourced prior to application of the unit.

Application of the Unit

This unit is appropriate for those working in an operational role at worksites within:

- Metalliferous mining
- Coal mining

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Refer to Unit Descriptor.

Pre-Requisites

Not applicable.

Employability Skills Information

This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.
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Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Plan and prepare for heavy media separation	1.1. Access, interpret and apply compliance documentation relevant to the work activity 1.2. Receive, interpret and clarify shift changeover details 1.3. Communicate with other personnel 1.4. Select personal protective equipment appropriate for work activities 1.5. Select appropriate type of auxiliary equipment for work activities 1.6. Perform equipment pre-start checks 1.7. Identify, address and report potential risks and hazards 1.8. Identify, address and report environmental issues 1.9. Adhere to emergency procedures
2. Start-up equipment in sequence	2.1. Carry out start-up procedures and complete start-up checks according to plant configurations and system requirements 2.2. Confirm plant is operational
3. Operate and monitor equipment	3.1. Read and interpret data from equipment indicators 3.2. Continuously inspect plant 3.3. Adjust equipment to optimise separation performance and product quality 3.4. Control feed to plant 3.5. Monitor and adjust heavy media levels 3.6. Monitor and adjust levels of separating baths 3.7. Monitor the efficiency of the heavy media separation process 3.8. Carry out operator level maintenance 3.9. Complete all required documentation 3.10. Pass on end of shift information to oncoming shift or next shift
4. Conduct housekeeping activities	4.1. Clean plant 4.2. Identify, address and report hazards
5. Shutdown in sequence and/or isolate equipment	5.1. Shutdown and/or isolate equipment based on process and safety requirements

	5.2. Perform <i>post-shutdown</i> and/or isolation checks
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Required Skills and Knowledge

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

Specific skills are required to achieve the performance criteria of this unit, particularly for its application in the various circumstances in which this unit may be used. This includes the ability to carry out the following as required to conduct heavy media separation:

- apply legislative, organisation and site requirements and procedures
- handle hazardous substances/identify hazards
- use lifting techniques (manual, automated)
- maintain records
- monitor operations
- report defects
- employ safe work practices
- use hand and power tools
- find plant faults

Required knowledge

Specific knowledge is required to achieve the performance criteria of this unit, particularly for its application in the various circumstances in which this unit may be used. This includes knowledge of the following as required to conduct heavy media separation:

- break down procedures
- contaminants
- emergency procedures
- environmental principles
- equipment operating parameters
- equipment safety requirements
- gravitation separation process (fines and heavy)
- hazardous substance procedures and consequences of spills
- heavy media types
- high pressure hazards
- isolation procedures
- metallurgical and technical data
- operational procedures and checks
- heavy media separation safety requirements
- site procedures
- types of ores and grades density

Evidence Guide

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Overview of assessment	
Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit	The evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit must be relevant to worksite operations and satisfy all of the requirements of the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge and the range statement of this unit and include evidence of the following: • knowledge of the requirements, procedures and instructions for conducting heavy media separation • implementation of requirements, procedures and techniques for the safe, effective and efficient completion of heavy media separation • working with others to undertake and complete the heavy media separation in a way that meets all of the required outcomes • consistent timely completion of heavy media separation that safely, effectively and efficiently meets the required outcomes
Context of and specific resources for assessment	• This unit must be assessed in the context of the work environment. Where personal safety or environmental damage are limiting factors, assessment may occur in a simulated environment provided it is realistic and sufficiently rigorous to cover all aspects of workplace performance, including task skills, task management skills, contingency management skills and job role environment skills. • Assessment of this competency requires typical resources normally used in a resources and infrastructure sector environment. Selection and use of resources for particular worksites may differ due to the site circumstances. • The assessment environment should not disadvantage the participant. For example, language, literacy and numeracy demands of assessment should not be greater than those required on the job. • Customisation of assessment and delivery

	environment to sensitively accommodate cultural diversity. • Aboriginal people and other people from a non English speaking background may have second language issues. • Where applicable, physical resources should include equipment modified for people with disabilities. Access must be provided to appropriate learning and/or assessment support when required.
Method of assessment	This unit may be assessed in a holistic way with other units of competency. The assessment strategy for this unit must verify required knowledge and skill and practical application using more than one of the following assessment methods: • written and/or oral assessment of the candidate's required knowledge • observed, documented and/or first hand testimonial evidence of the candidate's: • implementation of appropriate requirement, procedures and techniques for the safe, effective and efficient achievement of required outcomes • consistent achievement of required outcomes • first hand testimonial evidence of the candidate: • working with others to undertake and complete the heavy media separation
Guidance information for assessment	Consult the SkillsDMC User Guide for further information on assessment including access and equity issues.

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. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. 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) may also be included.

Relevant compliance documentation may include:	• legislative, organisational and site requirements and procedures • manufacturer's guidelines and specifications • Australian standards • Employment and Workplace Relations legislation • Equal Employment Opportunity and Disability Discrimination legislation
Legislation may include acts and regulations dealing with:	• mining safety and health • mine inspection • OHS • explosives
Auxiliary equipment may be anything that is portable and mobile that is not part of the fixed infrastructure, and may include:	• gantry cranes and attachments • hand and power tools • pump systems
Pre-start checks may include:	• availability of equipment • detection of conditions that are unusual • fluid levels • job requirements • personnel availability • work through plant
Environmental issues may include:	• drainage • dust (dump) • emissions • flora and fauna • hazardous chemicals • noise • recycling • run-off • spills • waste management and disposal • water quality
Start-up procedures may include	• cameras and monitors

the inspection of:	• distribution control system (DCS) • interlocks • isolations • pipes and flanges • pumping system • valves • visual and audio warning devices and lights • water systems
Plant may include:	• heavy media circuit • separating baths • cyclones • screens (drawing, washing, separating)
Indicator readings may measure:	• concentrations • densities • levels • pressure flows • viscosity
Monitoring may include:	• air flows • blockages and spillages • feed rates • power • pressures • temperatures • wear and tear • pressure oxidation
Heavy media may include:	• magnetite • ferrosilicon
Post-shutdown checks are like pre-start checks	
The methods used to optimise the plant may include:	• adjustment to heavy media levels • pulp density • stability of slurry • viscosity
Materials may include:	• heavy media • slurry • waste • gangue minerals
Contaminants are anything other than the slurry and nutrients. Common contaminants may	• oil • plastic • wood fibre

include:	
Site conditions may include:	• weather conditions • working at heights

Unit Sector(s)

Beneficiation

Competency field

Refer to Unit Sector(s).

Co-requisite units

Not applicable.