



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

RTE2029A Assist agricultural crop maintenance

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

This competency standard covers the assistance provided to others in agricultural crops. This assistance is likely to be under routine supervision with intermittent checking. Competency at this level requires the application of limited knowledge and skills to a range of agricultural crop maintenance tasks including assistance with vehicle and machinery preparation. The work undertaken is usually within established routines, methods and procedures.

Application of the Unit

Not applicable.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

Not applicable.

Employability Skills Information

Not applicable.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Not applicable.

Elements and Performance Criteria

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Element	Performance Criteria
1 Prepare for agricultural crop maintenance operations	1.1 Instructions about crop maintenance activities are interpreted and clarified with the supervisor. 1.2 Machinery, equipment and tools are selected and prepared for the task being undertaken. 1.3 OHS hazards are identified, risks assessed and reported to the supervisor. 1.4 The environmental implications of the crop maintenance plan are identified and discussed with the supervisor. 1.5 Suitable personal protective equipment is selected, used and maintained.
2 Prepare for crop maintenance operations	2.1 Machinery and vehicles are fuelled and routine checks are made for oil levels, tyre pressures, water levels and greasing points. 2.2 Instructions are received concerning location of the day's work, special operating instructions or work procedures.
3 Carry out maintenance operations	3.1 Assistance is provided with the crop weed control program. 3.2 Assistance is provided with the crop pest and disease control program. 3.3 Assistance is provided with the crop nutrition program. 3.4 Assistance is provided with paddock maintenance duties. 3.5 Assistance is provided with irrigation duties where appropriate.
4 Complete maintenance operations	4.1 Tools and equipment are cleaned and sterilised according to the manufacturers specifications, enterprise procedures and regulations. 4.2 All containers, leftover fluids, waste and debris are

disposed of safely and appropriately in accordance with enterprise requirements.

- 4.3 All required workplace records are completed accurately and promptly in accordance with enterprise requirements.

Required Skills and Knowledge

Not applicable.

Evidence Guide

What evidence is required to demonstrate competence for this standard as a whole?

Competence in establishing crops requires evidence that a person can interpret a site map, clear the site of old plantings, prepare the soil and site for plantings, prepare the plants, plant the crop and maintain the new crop.

The skills and knowledge required to establish crops must be **transferable** to a different work environment. For example, this could include different crops, maintenance practices, and enterprise procedures.

What specific skills are needed to achieve the performance criteria?

To achieve the performance criteria, appropriate literacy and numeracy levels as well as some complementary skills are required. These include the ability to:

- participate in teams and contribute to team objectives
- communicate with team members and supervisor
- read and interpret a range of workplace information
- calibrate equipment
- measure quantities of treatment
- operate machinery to manufacturers specifications and enterprise procedures
- safely apply appropriate agricultural chemicals.

What processes should be applied to this competency standard?

There are a number of processes that are learnt throughout work and life, which are required in all jobs. They are fundamental processes and generally transferable to other work functions. Some of these are covered by the **key competencies**, although others may be added. The questions below highlight how these processes are applied in this competency standard. Following each question a number in brackets indicates the level to which the key competency needs to be demonstrated where 0 = not required, 1 = perform the process, 2 = perform and administer the process and 3 = perform, administer and design the process.

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| 1. How can communication of ideas and information (1) be applied? | Ideas and information relating to preparation, planting and crop care, and problems encountered should be discussed with other members of the work team and the supervisor. |
| 2. How can information be collected, analysed and organised (1) ? | Enterprise work procedures, such as a daily planting plan should be consulted, interpreted and applied to crop maintenance activities with further clarification sought from the supervisor where necessary. |
| 3. How are activities planned and organised (1) ? | Materials, tools, equipment and work activities for crop maintenance routines may need to be arranged around seasonal requirements, and there may be some responsibility for co-ordinating work activities with other members of the work team. |
| 4. How can team work (1) be applied? | Crop maintenance activities may involve working with other members of a team to complete operations within the daily work routine. |
| 5. How can the use of mathematical ideas and techniques (1) be applied? | Calibrating seeding equipment and determining quantities and application rates for treatment or fertiliser will require mathematical application. |
| 6. How can problem-solving skills (1) be applied? | Problems relating to site preparation, crop planting, treatments, machinery and equipment, workplace safety and other team members may arise during the maintenance of crops, which may require problem-solving skills. |
| 7. How can the use of technology (1) be applied? | Technology may be applied in the preparation, use and maintenance of |

agricultural equipment and machinery used for land preparation, seeding, spreading of fertiliser or other crop treatments.

Are there other competency standards that could be assessed with this one?

This competency standard **could** be assessed on its own or in combination with other competencies relevant to the job function.

There is essential information about **assessing this competency standard for consistent performance and where and how it may be assessed**, in the Assessment Guidelines for this Training Package. All users of these competency standards must have **access** to the **Assessment Guidelines**. Further advice may also be sought from the relevant **sector booklet**.

Range Statement

Range of Variables

The Range of Variables explains the contexts within which the performance and knowledge requirements of this standard may be assessed. The scope of variables chosen in particular training and assessment requirements may depend on the work situations available

What **agricultural crops** does this unit cover?

Agricultural crops covered by this unit include wheat and coarse grains, cotton, grain legumes, oilseeds, sugar, temperate and tropical pastures.

What **instructions** may be relevant to this standard?

Instructions may include Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), company policy and procedures in regard crop maintenance, specifications, work notes, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), manufacturers instructions, product labels, or verbal directions from the manager, supervisor, or senior operator.

What **machinery, equipment and tools** are likely to be used?

Machinery, equipment and tools may include tractors and associated crop maintenance machinery such as fertiliser spreaders, spray rigs and irrigation equipment.

What **OHS** hazards may be associated with crop maintenance?

Hazards may include use of machinery, moving machinery and machinery parts, and plant debris, chemicals and hazardous substances, manual handling, solar radiation, dust and noise.

What are the **environmental implications** associated with agricultural crop maintenance?

Environmental implications may include the contamination of off-site ground water or soils from solids, debris, nutrients or chemicals; land disturbance, spread of noxious weeds and water run-off.

What **personal protective equipment** may be required to undertake turf renovation?

Personal protective equipment may include hat, boots, overalls, gloves, goggles, respirator or face mask, hearing protection, and sunscreen lotion.

What activities are associated with assisting in agricultural crop **maintenance**?

Agricultural crop maintenance includes preparation of machinery, tools and equipment, and assistance with crop maintenance tasks such as fertiliser application, spraying, irrigation and routine

crop or paddock maintenance.

How may the waste materials be **disposed** of?

Waste disposal may include disposing of drums, containers, and bags by approved methods at approved collection locations.

For more information on contexts, environment and variables for training and assessment refer to the Sector Booklet.

Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.