



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

THTPPD04B Plan and implement minimal impact operations

Release: 1

THTPPD04B Plan and implement minimal impact operations

Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

This unit deals with the skills and knowledge required to organise and operate tourism activities which minimise negative environmental and social impacts. A senior guide or senior operations co-ordinator would generally undertake this process. The unit's emphasis is on short term action planning and implementation, without the strategic focus which is found in unit THTPPD06B Plan and develop ecologically sustainable tourism operations. This unit is particularly relevant to ecotourism operations but should apply to all tourism operations.

This unit deals with the skills and knowledge required to organise and operate tourism activities which minimise negative environmental and social impacts. A senior guide or senior operations co-ordinator would generally undertake this process. The unit's emphasis is on short term action planning and implementation, without the strategic focus which is found in unit THTPPD06B Plan and develop ecologically sustainable tourism operations. This unit is particularly relevant to ecotourism operations but should apply to all tourism operations

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

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance Criteria
1 Organise environmentally responsible activities	1.1 Develop experiences and activities according to eco-tourism codes of practice including: ; combination of education and interpretation on the natural environment; environmental sustainability; return to the local environment/community; cultural sensitivity; meeting of realistic client expectations. 1.2 Consult with colleagues and other stakeholders regarding issues of environmental responsibility. 1.3 Develop tour procedures to limit potential negative impacts and maximise positive impacts on the natural environment and local community.
2 Conduct activities with minimal impact	2.1 Select and use the minimal impact procedures that are appropriate for a given area.. 2.2 Advise customers politely about acceptable behaviours in different environments and communities prior to entering the area 2.3 Provide a role model for customers and colleagues in relation to minimal impact. 2.4 Take appropriate action to address situations where customer behaviour is not acceptable.
3 Monitor impacts and changes	3.1 Monitor and accurately record changes in the environment using appropriate technology. 3.2 Collect environmental information on behalf of environmental/social agencies and authorities where appropriate. 3.3 Advise appropriate authorities of environmental and social change promptly.

Required Skills and Knowledge

Not applicable.

Evidence Guide

Essential Knowledge and Skills to be Assessed

The following knowledge and skills must be assessed as part of this unit:

- general and overview knowledge of global environmental issues
- local environmental and cultural issues of which tourism operators must be aware
- land management practices, including those used by National Park management
- general and overview knowledge of environmental ethics
- relevant Federal/State/Territory/local legislation, regulations and by-laws
- minimal impact techniques in relation to:
 - waste disposal
 - use of tracks
 - energy use
 - noise
 - souveniring
 - setting of camps
 - interactions with wildlife
 - group size
 - activity specific guidelines
 - local customs/courtesies.

- environmental information collection techniques
- ecotourism codes of practice (as per Ecotourism Association of Australia)
- an understanding of the biophysical and socio-cultural elements in an environment.

Linkages to Other Units

This unit has linkages to a range of other related units and combined training and assessment may be appropriate. Examples include but are not limited to:

All guiding units

THTPPD01B Create and implement strategic product development initiatives

THTPPD06B Plan and develop ecologically sustainable tourism operations.

Critical Aspects of Assessment

Evidence of the following is critical:

- ability to conduct a tourism activity using the minimal impact techniques appropriate for a given environment

- knowledge of the environmental impacts and issues associated with tourism.

Context of Assessment and Resource Implications

Assessment must ensure:

- conduct of an activity for a group of people within a natural environment so that minimal impact practices can be demonstrated.

Assessment Methods

Assessment methods must be chosen to ensure that the application of minimal impact principles can be practically demonstrated. Methods must include assessment of knowledge as well as assessment of practical skills.

The following examples are appropriate for this unit:

- conduct of a group tour in an environmentally sensitive area

- project or case study to analyse appropriate minimal impact approaches for different environments

- questions to assess knowledge of environmental issue, ethics and collection techniques

review of portfolios of evidence and third party workplace reports of on-the-job performance by the candidate.

Key Competencies in this Unit

Key Competencies are an integral part of all workplace competencies. The table below describes those applicable to this unit. Trainers and assessors should ensure that they are addressed in training and assessment.

Level 1 = Perform Level 2 = Administer and Manage Level 3 = Design and Evaluate

Key Competencies

Collecting, Organising and Analysing Information

For example:

Reviewing a tour brief to determine how to minimise any negative environmental or social impact (2)

Communicating Ideas and Information

For example:

Briefing a group of customers on the environmental sensitivity of an area (2)

Planning and Organising Activities

For example:

Organising the movement of people to ensure negative impacts are minimised (2)

Working with Others and in Teams

For example:

Consulting with colleagues on ideas for minimising negative impacts, or enhancing positive impacts (2)

Using Mathematical Ideas and Techniques

For example:

Reviewing the carrying capacity of an area in relation to group size (1)

Solving Problems

For example:

Dealing with a customer who ignores agreed behavioural guidelines (2)

Using Technology

For example:

Using equipment to monitor water quality (1)

Essential Knowledge and Skills to be Assessed

The following knowledge and skills must be assessed as part of this unit:

general and overview knowledge of global environmental issues

local environmental and cultural issues of which tourism operators must be aware

land management practices, including those used by National Park management

general and overview knowledge of environmental ethics

relevant Federal/State/Territory/local legislation, regulations and by-laws

minimal impact techniques in relation to:

waste disposal

use of tracks

energy use

noise

souveniring

setting of camps

interactions with wildlife

group size

activity specific guidelines

local customs/courtesies.

environmental information collection techniques

ecotourism codes of practice (as per Ecotourism Association of Australia)

an understanding of the biophysical and socio-cultural elements in an environment.

Linkages to Other Units

This unit has linkages to a range of other related units and combined training and assessment may be appropriate. Examples include but are not limited to:

All guiding units

THTPPD01B Create and implement strategic product development initiatives

THTPPD06B Plan and develop ecologically sustainable tourism operations.

Critical Aspects of Assessment

Evidence of the following is critical:

ability to conduct a tourism activity using the minimal impact techniques appropriate for a given environment

knowledge of the environmental impacts and issues associated with tourism.

Context of Assessment and Resource Implications

Assessment must ensure:

conduct of an activity for a group of people within a natural environment so that minimal impact practices can be demonstrated.

Assessment Methods

Assessment methods must be chosen to ensure that the application of minimal impact principles can be practically demonstrated. Methods must include assessment of knowledge as well as assessment of practical skills.

The following examples are appropriate for this unit:

conduct of a group tour in an environmentally sensitive area

project or case study to analyse appropriate minimal impact approaches for different environments

questions to assess knowledge of environmental issue, ethics and collection techniques

review of portfolios of evidence and third party workplace reports of on-the-job performance by the candidate.

Key Competencies in this Unit

Key Competencies are an integral part of all workplace competencies. The table below describes those applicable to this unit. Trainers and assessors should ensure that they are addressed in training and assessment.

Level 1 = Perform Level 2 = Administer and Manage Level 3 = Design and Evaluate

Key Competencies

Collecting, Organising and Analysing Information

For example:

Reviewing a tour brief to determine how to minimise any negative environmental or social impact (2)

Communicating Ideas and Information

For example:

Briefing a group of customers on the environmental sensitivity of an area (2)

Planning and Organising Activities

For example:

Organising the movement of people to ensure negative impacts are minimised (2)

Working with Others and in Teams

For example:

Consulting with colleagues on ideas for minimising negative impacts, or enhancing positive impacts (2)

Using Mathematical Ideas and Techniques

For example:

Reviewing the carrying capacity of an area in relation to group size (1)

Solving Problems

For example:

Dealing with a customer who ignores agreed behavioural guidelines (2)

Using Technology

For example:

Using equipment to monitor water quality (1)

Range Statement

This unit applies to all tourism industry sectors. The following explanations identify how this unit may be applied in different workplaces, sectors and circumstances.

Minimal impact techniques and procedures may include:

- education on appropriate behavioural patterns
- site hardening
- technological solutions
- education
- restricting or limiting access
- staged authenticity.

Environmental impacts may include:

Positive

- opportunities for conservation/protection
- education of visitors
- improvement of sites already impacted.

Negative

- disturbance of flora and fauna
- physical damage
- introduction of exotic/feral species
- pollution
- waste, energy and consumable demands and issues
- visual impacts.

Social impacts may include:

Positive

- economic benefits to local community
- improved local facilities
- employment
- visitor education
- greater understanding between host and visitor cultures.

Negative

- trivialisation of culture
- effect on social structures.

Methods of information collection may include:

- logbooks
- sighting forms
- basic measurements (temperature, weather conditions, estimations of percentage cover, water)
- photography.

Changes in the natural environment may include:

- breeding events
- erosion
- species sighting
- changes to flora
- changes to fauna.

This unit applies to all tourism industry sectors. The following explanations identify how this unit may be applied in different workplaces, sectors and circumstances.

Minimal impact techniques and procedures may include:

education on appropriate behavioural patterns
site hardening
technological solutions
education
restricting or limiting access
staged authenticity.

Environmental impacts may include:

Positive
opportunities for conservation/protection
education of visitors
improvement of sites already impacted.

Negative

disturbance of flora and fauna
physical damage
introduction of exotic/feral species
pollution
waste, energy and consumable demands and issues
visual impacts.

Social impacts may include:

Positive
economic benefits to local community
improved local facilities
employment
visitor education
greater understanding between host and visitor cultures.

Negative

trivialisation of culture
effect on social structures.

Methods of information collection may include:

logbooks
sighting forms
basic measurements (temperature, weather conditions, estimations of percentage cover, water)
photography.

Changes in the natural environment may include:

breeding events
erosion
species sighting
changes to flora
changes to fauna.

Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.