

Modification history

Release	Comments
Release 2	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 4.0.
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 1.0.

AHCARB401	Verify pruning specifications
Application	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to verify specifications for pruning against tree conditions and national industry standards for pruning.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who apply specialist skills to provide solutions to technical and unpredictable problems. They work autonomously, instruct and monitor the work of others within a team. They use discretion and judgment in the selection, allocation and use of available resources.</p> <p>Legislation, regulations and by-laws relating to the treatment and removal of trees apply nationally and in some states, territories and jurisdictions.</p>
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	Arboriculture (ARB)

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Locate and verify the tree and site characteristics	1.1 Confirm trees to be pruned and the desired outcomes for pruning works according to client brief and arborist specifications 1.2 Undertake a site-specific Job Safety Analysis (JSA) and record and implement control measures 1.3 Confirm identified tree species and location according to workplace and botanical standards 1.4 Determine dimensions of tree and record characteristics according to workplace requirements
2. Inspect tree and determine pruning operations	2.1 Inspect and assess condition and growing environment for trees identified in client brief and specifications 2.2 Determine planned pruning operations required for canopy modification or canopy maintenance according to industry standards 2.3 Determine tree care requirements to compensate for planned pruning operations 2.4 Identify and select biosecurity procedures for planned pruning operations
3. Verify and confirm pruning operations	3.1 Review client brief and arborist specifications against tree inspections and planned pruning operations 3.2 Confirm pruning operations comply with client brief and arborist specifications 3.3 Verify planned pruning operations for compliance with industry standards 3.4 Revise planned pruning operations where discrepancies occur between specifications and industry standards
4. Confirm pruning works with client and work crew	4.1 Document planned pruning operations according to workplace procedures 4.2 Confirm and clarify pruning operations plan with client and arborist 4.3 Prepare a contract of pruning works and submit to client for approval according to workplace procedures 4.4 Provide specification of pruning operations to work crew for implementation

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
5. Maintain records of pruning works	5.1 Assess pruning works performed against pruning specifications 5.2 Implement remedial action where anomalies are identified 5.3 Review works with work crew and document improvements for future works 5.4 Record results of completed works and report to client according to workplace procedures

Foundation Skills	
<i>This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.</i>	
Skill	Description
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Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCARB401 Verify pruning specifications	AHCARB401 Verify pruning specifications	Redesigned unit. Removed and reviewed elements and performance criteria for brevity and clarity	Equivalent unit

Links
Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72

TITLE	Assessment requirements for AHCARB401 Verify pruning specifications
Performance Evidence	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.</p> <p>There must be evidence that the individual has demonstrated the ability to verify pruning specifications ensuring they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirmed and identified tree species to be pruned and the desired outcomes for pruning works in accordance with client brief and arborist specifications • undertaken a site-specific job safety analysis and recorded and implemented control measures • determined and documented tree dimensions and characteristics • inspected and assessed the condition and growing environment of trees to be pruned • determined planned pruning operations in accordance with current industry standards • determined compensatory tree care requirements to offset losses from pruning operations • determined biosecurity procedures • reviewed and confirmed planned pruning operations complied with client brief and arborists specifications • verified planned pruning operations complied with industry standards • documented planned pruning operations • confirmed and clarified pruning operations with client and arborist • prepared contract of pruning and sought approval from client to proceed • provided specifications to work crew for implementation • assessed pruning works against specifications and implemented remedial action where non-compliance was identified • reviewed pruning operations with work crew and documented future improvements • maintained records and reported to client according to workplace procedures. 	
Knowledge Evidence	
<p>An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessing work health, safety, site and environment including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparing JSAs and SWMS for site-specific risks • purpose of first aid and rescue personnel, equipment and procedures • pre-operational and safety checks, on ropes, harnesses, tools and equipment • personal protective equipment used when climbing • safety and procedures when working near overhead power lines • tree species identification standards including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • botanical nomenclature • common names • characteristics of trees and pruning operations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approximating height and canopy size and spread • trunk dimensions as diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) • estimating total crown foliage • the location and distribution of branches • estimating extent of pruning as a percentage of canopy • specification of key reference points within a tree • tree's health, growth habit, structure, stability and growing environment • specifications and Australian standards for crown maintenance including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dead wooding • crown thinning • selective pruning • formative pruning • specifications and Australian standards for crown modification including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduction pruning • crown lifting 	

Knowledge Evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pollarding • remedial or restorative pruning • utilities line clearing • post pruning tree care including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rectifying losses arising from pruning of live tissue • compensatory tree care activities • minimising transmission of diseases with pruning equipment and materials including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biosecurity requirements • basic principles of hygiene when maintaining tools and equipment • pruning procedures and methods including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximum and average diameter of live branches • minimum clearance distances • branch pattern • direction of branch growth by selecting north, south, east, or west • approximation of branch collar diameter • location of pruning point • crown maintenance and modifications and pruning cut options including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stem co-dominance • stem bark ridge • old cuts • dead branches • occluded and occluding branches • basics of contracts and their purpose in arboriculture work including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • client communication strategies • verbal contracts • documented contracts • legal requirements • importance of gaining approvals • specifying and documenting pruning work requirements • record keeping and reporting procedures when verifying pruning specifications.

Assessment Conditions
<p>Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to trees and client or arborists specifications for pruning • resources, equipment and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • computer for accessing information and documenting outcomes • specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workplace procedures and instructions, related to pruning operations • industry standards relating to tree pruning operations • relationships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • client, supervisor and work team. <p>Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.</p> <p>In addition, the following specific assessor requirements apply to this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arboriculture vocational competencies at least to the level being assessed • current arboriculture industry skills directly relevant to the unit of competency being assessed.

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