



**Australian Government**

**Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations**

# **TAAASS402A Assess competence**

**Release: 1**

## TAAASS402A Assess competence

### Modification History

Not applicable.

### Unit Descriptor

This unit specifies the competence required to assess the competence of a candidate.

#### Competency Field

Assessment

#### Application of the Unit

This unit addresses the competence of conducting competency assessment in accordance with a developed assessment plan. It includes assessment carried out in an assessment and learning pathway as well as assessment conducted in an assessment only pathway.

The critical focus of this unit is on interpreting the collected evidence and making a judgement of competence against the specified competency standards by applying the principles of assessment and rules of evidence. This unit also covers demonstration of the professional relationship between assessor and candidate/s and the skills needed to support this relationship.

The achievement of this unit includes interpretation of competency standards, (where competency standards are used as the benchmarks for assessment). **TAADES401A Use Training Packages to meet client needs** addresses this skill in depth.

This unit does not address the development of an assessment plan or organisation of required resources for assessment, which is addressed in **TAAASS401A Plan and organise assessment**.

The competence specified in this unit is typically required by assessors.

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## 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 Establish and maintain the assessment environment	<p data-bbox="638 1265 1374 1422">1.1 The assessment plan is interpreted and assessment system policies and procedures and organisational/legal/ethical requirements for conducting assessment are confirmed with relevant people</p> <p data-bbox="638 1444 1374 1601">1.2 The relevant benchmarks for assessment and nominated assessment tools are accessed and interpreted to confirm the evidence to be collected and how it is to be collected</p> <p data-bbox="638 1624 1374 1825">1.3 Details of the assessment plan and the assessment process are explained, discussed and clarified with the candidate including opportunities for assessment, reasonable adjustment, reassessment and appeals</p> <p data-bbox="638 1848 1374 1955">1.4 Proposed changes to the assessment process are negotiated and agreed with the candidate, where relevant</p>

- 2 Gather quality evidence
  - 2.1 The assessment plan is followed to guide the conduct of assessment and assessment methods and assessment tools are used to gather, organise and document evidence in a format suitable for determining competence
  - 2.2 The principles of assessment and rules of evidence are applied in gathering quality evidence
  - 2.3 Opportunities for evidence gathering in work activities/simulated work activities are determined with the candidate and relevant personnel
  - 2.4 Opportunities for integrated assessment activities are identified and assessment tools are modified, where required
  - 2.5 Identified assessment system policies and procedures and organisational/legal/ethical and requirements for assessment are addressed
- 3 Support the candidate
  - 3.1 Candidates are guided in gathering their own evidence to support recognition of current competence
  - 3.2 Appropriate communication and interpersonal skills are used to develop a professional relationship with the candidate which reflects sensitivity to individual differences and enables twoway feedback
  - 3.3 Decisions on reasonable adjustment/s, where applicable, are made with the candidate, based on candidate's needs and characteristics
  - 3.4 Reasonable adjustments must maintain the integrity of the relevant competency standards and provide balanced application of the principles of assessment and rules of evidence
  - 3.5 Specialist support is accessed, where required, in accordance with the assessment plan
  - 3.6 Any occupational health and safety (OHS), risk to person or equipment is addressed immediately

- 4 Make the assessment decision
  - 4.1 Limitations in obtaining and evaluating quality evidence are identified and assistance is sought, where required, from relevant people
  - 4.2 Collected evidence is examined and evaluated to ensure that it reflects the evidence required to demonstrate competency and which: encompasses all component parts of the competency standards and the dimensions of competency (where competency standards are the benchmarks for assessment), addresses other related documentation, complies with the rules of evidence
  - 4.3 Judgement is used to infer whether competence has been demonstrated, based on the available evidence
  - 4.4 Relevant assessment system policies and procedures and organisational/legal/ethical considerations are addressed in making the assessment decision
  - 4.5 Clear and constructive feedback is provided to the candidate regarding the assessment decision and a follow-up action plan is developed, where required
- 5 Record and report the assessment decision
  - 5.1 Assessment outcomes are recorded promptly and accurately in accordance with assessment system policies and procedures and organisational/legal/ethical requirements
  - 5.2 An assessment report is completed and processed in accordance with assessment system policies and procedures and organisational/legal/ethical requirements
  - 5.3 Recommendations for follow up action are submitted to relevant people, where required
  - 5.4 Other relevant parties are informed of the assessment decision where required, and in accordance with confidentiality conventions
- 6 Review the assessment process
  - 6.1 The assessment process is reviewed against criteria in consultation with relevant people to improve and modify future assessment practice
  - 6.2 The review is documented and recorded in accordance with relevant assessment system

policies and procedures and organisational/  
legal/ethical requirements

- 6.3 Reflection skills are used to review and  
self-evaluate assessment practice

## **Required Skills and Knowledge**

Not applicable.

## Evidence Guide

The Evidence Guide provides advice to inform and support appropriate assessment of this unit. It contains an overview of assessment followed by identification of specific aspects of evidence that will need to be addressed in determining competence. The Evidence Guide is an integral part of the unit and should be read and interpreted in conjunction with the other components of competency.

Assessment must reflect the endorsed Assessment Guidelines of the TAA04 Training and Assessment Training Package.

### Overview of Assessment

To demonstrate competence against this unit candidates must be able to provide evidence that they can assess the competence of another individual through a process of collecting and reviewing evidence and making an informed judgement.

The evidence provided must show: how the assessment environment was established and how the candidate's needs were met; how the units of competency were interpreted to determine the evidence requirements; how the assessment plan was followed; how the assessment tools were used in collecting evidence; the basis for the assessment decision using the rules of evidence; communication skills used to guide, support and provide feedback to the candidate during the assessment process; records and reports; and how the assessment process was reviewed.

### Evidence Requirements

#### Required knowledge includes:

competency-based assessment covering:

- vocational education and training as a competency-based system
- assessment is criterion referenced/distinction to norm referenced assessment
- criterion used in national VET is endorsed or accredited competency - standards defining specifications for performance of work/work functions and - skills/knowledge
- reporting of competency-based assessment
- competency standards as the basis of qualifications
- the principles of competency-based assessment
- the structure and application of competency standards

what are the principles of assessment and how are they applied (validity, reliability, fairness, flexibility)

what are the rules of evidence and how are they applied (valid, authentic, sufficient, current)

the range of assessment purposes and assessment contexts

different types of assessment methods, including suitability for gathering various types of evidence; suitability for content of units; resource requirements and associated costs

what are reasonable adjustments/when are they applicable/not applicable

basic evaluation methodologies suitable for reviewing personal assessment practice

types and forms of evidence, including assessment tools that are relevant to gathering different types of evidence

practical knowledge of the potential barriers and processes relating to assessment tools and methods

the assessment system and assessment policies and procedures established by the industry, organisation or training authority

cultural sensitivity and equity considerations

relevant policy, legislation, codes of practice and national standards including national Commonwealth and state/territory legislation for example:

- copyright and privacy laws in terms of electronic technology
- security of information
- plagiarism
- Training Packages/competency standards
- licensing requirements
- industry/workplace requirements
- duty of care under common law
- recording information and confidentiality requirements
- anti-discrimination including equal opportunity, racial vilification and disability - discrimination
- workplace relations
- industrial awards/enterprise agreements

OHS responsibilities associated with assessing competence such as:

- requirements for reporting hazards and incidents
- emergency procedures and procedures for use of relevant personal protective equipment
- safe use and maintenance of relevant equipment
- sources of OHS information

**Required skills and attributes include:**

analysis and interpretation skills to:

- unpack competency standards
- interpret assessment tools and other assessment information
- identify candidate needs
- make judgements based on assessing available evidence

observation skills to:

- determine candidate readiness for assessment
- observe candidate performance
- identify when candidate may need assistance throughout the assessment processes

research and evaluation skills to:

- access required human and material resources for assessment
- access assessment system policies and procedures
- evaluate evidence
- evaluate the assessment process

cognitive skills to:

- weigh up the evidence and make a judgement
- consider and recommend reasonable adjustments

decision making skills to:

- make a decision on a candidate's competence

literacy skills to:

- read and interpret relevant information to conduct assessment
- prepare required documentation and records/reports of assessment outcomes in required format

communications/interpersonal skills to:

- explain the assessment process to the candidate
- give clear and precise instructions
- ask effective questions
- provide clarification
- discuss process with other relevant people
- give appropriate feedback to the candidate



- discuss assessment outcome with the candidate
  - using language appropriate to the candidate and assessment environment
  - establish a working relationship with the candidate
- attributes including:

- a willingness to guide and support candidates
- capacity to encourage, accept and utilise feedback
- sensitivity to individual difference and need
- ethical conduct in assessment

**Products that could be used as evidence include:**

completed assessment tools/templates/checklists  
documentation of evidence collected and assessment decisions  
feedback from candidate/assessor/supervisor  
feedback to candidate with recommendations for future options  
completed assessment records/reports  
reviews of assessment practices and recommended changes to future practices

**Processes that could be used as evidence include:**

how competency standards and other documents were interpreted  
how assessment activities were scheduled  
how the assessment plan was modified to meet candidate needs  
how evidence was collated and evaluated against the rules of evidence

**Resources implications for assessment include:**

access to candidates to be assessed  
access to competency standards  
access to assessment materials and tools  
access to suitable assessment venue/equipment  
workplace documentation  
access to documentation/records of candidate to determine specific requirements  
cost/time considerations  
personnel requirements

**The collection of quality evidence requires that:**

assessment must address the scope of this unit and reflect all components of the unit, i.e. the Elements, Performance Criteria, Range Statement, Evidence Requirements and Key Competencies  
a range of appropriate assessment methods/evidence gathering techniques is used to determine competency  
evidence must be gathered in the workplace wherever possible. Where no workplace is available, a simulated workplace must be provided  
the evidence collected must relate to a number of performances assessed at different points in time and in a learning and assessment pathway these must be separated by further learning and practice  
assessment meets the rules of evidence  
a judgement of competence should only be made when the assessor is confident that the required outcomes of the unit have been achieved and that consistent performance has been demonstrated

**Specific evidence requirements must include:**

carrying out assessment of a number of candidates, assessed against different units of competency or accredited curricula, following the relevant assessment plan  
at least one candidate must be assessed through an assessment only pathway

at least one assessment must include consideration of reasonable adjustment and the reasons for decisions and approach

all must show:

- the application of different assessment methods and tools involving a range of assessment activities and events
- demonstration of two-way communication and feedback
- how judgement was exercised in making the assessment decision how and when assessment outcomes were recorded and reported
- completion of assessment records/reports in accordance with assessment system - legal/organisational ethical requirements
- how the assessment process was reviewed and the review outcomes documented

**Integrated assessment means that:**

this unit can be assessed alone or as part of an integrated assessment activity involving relevant units in the TAA04 Training and Assessment Training Package. Suggested units include but are not limited to:

- TAAASS401A Plan and organise assessment
- TAAASS403A Develop assessment tools
- TAAASS404A Participate in assessment validation
- TAADES401A Use Training Packages to meet client needs.

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## Range Statement

The Range Statement adds definition to the unit by elaborating critical or significant aspects of the performance requirements of the unit. The Range Statement establishes the range of indicative meanings or applications of these requirements in different operating contexts and conditions. The specific aspects which require elaboration are identified by the use of italics in the Performance Criteria.

**An assessment plan is the overall planning document for the assessment process and may include:**

- the purpose and aims of the assessment
- the context of assessment
- identified personnel
- relevant competency standards and other assessment documentation
- evidence plan
- identified assessment methods and assessment tools
- possibilities for clustering units of competency for assessment purposes
- identified OHS hazards, including assessed risks and control strategies
- material/physical resources required
- organisational arrangements for conducting assessment
- OHS reporting requirements
- any special assessment needs, e.g. personal protective equipment requirements
- outline of assessment milestones, time lines and target dates
- candidate self-assessment procedures
- connections to relevant organisational plans, policies and procedures

**Assessment system policies and procedures may include:**

- candidate selection
- rational and purpose of competency-based assessment
- assessment records/data management/information management
- recognition of current competency/recognition of prior learning/credit arrangements
- assessors - needs, qualifications, maintaining currency
- assessment reporting procedures
- assessment appeals
- candidate grievances/complaints
- validation
- evaluation/internal audit
- costs/resourcing
- access and equity/reasonable adjustment
- partnership arrangements
- links with human resource or industrial relations systems
- links with overall quality management system

**Organisational/legal/ethical requirements may include:**

- assessment system policies and procedures
- reporting, recording and retrieval systems for assessment
- licensing/legal ramifications of assessing competence
- requirements of training and/or assessment organisations relating to assessment and validation
- quality assurance systems
- business and performance plans
- collaborative/partnership arrangements

policies, procedures and programs  
defined resource parameters  
mutual recognition arrangements  
industrial relations systems and processes, awards/enterprise agreements  
Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), in particular Standard 8, RTO assessments  
registration scope  
human resources policies/procedures  
legal requirements including anti-discrimination, equal employment, job role/responsibilities/conditions  
relevant industry codes of practice  
confidentiality and privacy requirements of information relating to completed assessments  
OHS considerations, including:  
ensuring OHS requirements are adhered to during the assessment process  
identifying and reporting OHS hazards and concerns to relevant personnel

**Relevant people may include:**

the candidate/s  
other assessors  
the client, company or organisation  
team leaders, managers, supervisors  
trainers/facilitators  
technical/subject experts  
training and assessment coordinators  
industry regulators  
employee and employer representatives  
members of professional associations  
Commonwealth department official/Centrelink staff/caseworker  
New Apprenticeship Centre (NAC) personnel

**Benchmark/s for assessment refers to:**

the criterion against which the candidate is assessed which, may be a competency standard/unit of competency, assessment criteria of course curricula, performance specifications, product specifications

**Assessment tools contain both the instrument and the procedures for gathering and interpreting evidence in accordance with designated assessment methods and may include:**

the instruments to be used for gathering evidence such as:

- a profile of acceptable performance measures
- templates/proformas
- specific questions or activities
- evidence/observation checklists
- checklists for the evaluation of work samples
- candidate self-assessment materials

the procedures, information and instructions for the assessor/candidate relating to the use of assessment instruments and assessment conditions

**Reasonable adjustment must not compromise the integrity of the competency standard and may include:**

adjustments to the assessment process taking into account candidate's language, literacy, numeracy requirements

provision of personal support services, for example, reader, interpreter, attendant carer, scribe, member of community in attendance

use of adaptive technology or special equipment

flexible assessment sessions to allow for fatigue or administering of medication

format of assessment materials, for example, in Braille, first language, use of

audiotape/videotape

adjustments to the physical environment or venue

revising proposed assessment methods/tools

considerations relating to age and/or gender,

considerations relating to cultural beliefs, traditional practices, religious observances

**Assessment methods are the particular techniques used to gather different types of evidence and may include:**

direct observation, for example:

- real work/real time activities at the workplace
- work activities in a simulated workplace environment

structured activities, for example:

- simulation exercises/role-plays
- projects
- presentations
- activity sheets

questioning, for example:

- written questions, e.g. on a computer
- interviews
- self-assessment
- verbal questioning
- questionnaires
- oral/written examinations (for higher AQF levels)

portfolios, for example:

- collections of work samples by the candidate
- product with supporting documentation
- historical evidence
- journal/log book
- information about life experience

review of products, for example:

- products as a result of a project
- work samples/products

third party feedback, for example:

- testimonials/reports from employers/supervisors
- evidence of training
- authenticated prior achievements
- interview with employer, supervisor, peer

**Principles of assessment guide the assessment process and must address:**

validity

reliability

flexibility

fairness

**Rules of evidence are closely related to the assessment principles and provide guidance on the collection of evidence to ensure that it is:**



valid  
sufficient  
authentic  
current

**Quality evidence addresses the rules of evidence and must:**

encompass the Performance Criteria to demonstrate achievement of the outcomes (Elements)  
reflect the skills, knowledge and attributes defined in the relevant units of competency  
show application of the skills in the context described in the Range Statement  
demonstrate competence over a period of time  
demonstrate repeatable competence  
be the work of the candidate  
be able to be verified  
demonstrate current skills/knowledge of the candidate  
not inflate the language, literacy and numeracy requirements beyond those required in the performance of the competency

**Guided means to explain to the candidate:**

what is recognition-based assessment  
what are assessment tools  
how to use these tools  
the rules of evidence that must be met by the evidence they provide

**Recognition of current competence is defined as:**

the process of assessment and formal recognition by an assessor of competence currently held by a candidate which has been gained through any combination of formal, informal training and education, work experience or real life experiences

**Communication skills may include:**

providing constructive and supportive feedback  
using active listening  
using appropriate questioning to clarify and confirm instructions for evidence gathering  
accurately interpreting verbal messages  
assisting candidates to paraphrase advice/instructions to the assessor  
making clear and concrete presentations of options/advice

**Interpersonal skills may include:**

accurately interpreting non-verbal messages  
engaging in two-way interaction  
using language appropriate to candidate, assessment context and work performance addressed by competency standards  
using language and concepts appropriate to cultural differences  
using culturally inclusive and sensitive techniques

**Individual differences may include:**

English language, literacy and numeracy barriers  
physical impairment or disability involving hearing, vision, voice, mobility  
intellectual impairment or disability  
medical conditions such as arthritis, epilepsy, diabetes and asthma that are not obvious but may impact on assessment  
learning difficulties  
psychiatric or psychological disability  
religious and spiritual observances  
cultural images/perceptions

age

gender

**Feedback may include:**

ensuring assessment process is understood

ensuring candidate concerns are addressed

enabling question and answer

confirming outcomes

identifying further evidence to be provided

discussing action plans

confirming gap training needed

information regarding available appeal processes

suggesting improvements in evidence gathering and presentation

**Specialist support may include:**

assistance by third party - carer, interpreter

support from specialist educator

development of online assessment activities

support for remote or isolated candidates and/or assessors

support from subject matter or safety experts

advice from regulatory authorities

assessment teams/panels

support from lead assessors

advice from policy development experts

**Addressed may include:**

stopping the assessment until the OHS risk is rectified

stopping the assessment until the equipment is fixed or replaced

**Limitations may relate to:**

job role and responsibilities

meeting candidate needs

assessment panels

training and/or assessment organisation's quality processes

personal competency level

organisational, industry and national training requirements

personal level of knowledge of competency-based assessment

legal responsibilities

**All component parts of the competency standards refers to:**

elements

Performance Criteria

Range Statement/range of variables, including:

- contextualisation

- link to knowledge and enterprise requirements

- focus of assessment

- underpinning language, literacy and numeracy requirements

evidence guide requirements, including:

- underpinning/required knowledge

- underpinning/required skills and attributes

- underpinning language, literacy and numeracy requirements

- Key Competencies/generic skills

- critical aspects of evidence to be considered/quality evidence requirements

- concurrent assessment and interdependence of units
- assessment methods/resources/context

dimensions of competency, which include:

- task skills
- task management skills
- contingency management skills
- job role/environment skills

**Related documentation may include:**

Assessment Guidelines of the relevant Training Package/s  
the assessment criteria of accredited modules  
evidence to be collected as set out in assessment plans  
definition and interpretation of evidence in developed assessment tools  
any requirements of OHS, legislation, codes of practice, standards, guidelines  
indicators and levels of competence of the National Reporting System  
organisational requirements for work performance  
product specifications  
integrated competency assessment tool

**Judgement is a two-step process and means:**

the decision made by the assessor on whether the evidence provided meets the principles of assessment and rules of evidence  
the decision made by the assessor, based on the evidence provided and evaluated, on whether the candidate is competent/not yet competent

**An action plan is required when the decision of not yet competent is recorded and may include:**

gap training, further learning  
additional practice opportunities  
additional assessment opportunities/evidence gathering opportunities  
individual facilitation, where relevant  
referral to specialist support

**An assessment report may include:**

personal details of candidate  
details of assessment/s, date, time, venue  
details of assessor's summary of evidence considered and copies of assessment papers  
feedback to and from the candidate  
justification of decision  
summary of candidate's action plan  
other critical information including appeals and outcomes  
sign-off by assessor and candidate  
electronic/paper reports to funding bodies

**Recommendations may include:**

recommendation to support training and/or assessment in new areas of competency  
recommendations in the action plan  
reassessment  
appeal implications

**Other relevant parties may include:**

Centrelink personnel  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA)  
parties nominated by the candidate

parties to be informed because of contractual obligations

**Criteria may include:**

following the assessment plan

confirming and addressing organisational, ethical and legal requirements where appropriate, including OHS

providing appropriate information regarding the assessment process to the candidate and explaining all steps, using effective communication and interpersonal skills

demonstrated application of the rules of evidence and principles of assessment in gathering quality evidence

demonstrated support and guidance to the candidate throughout the assessment process

using assessment methods and tools appropriately to gather, organise and document evidence

applying reasonable adjustments where required/ appropriate, in consultation with relevant people

providing clear and constructive feedback to the candidate regarding the assessment decision

reviewing range of own decisions for consistency

**Consultation may involve:**

moderation with other assessors, training and assessment coordinators

discussions with the client, team leaders, managers, supervisors, coaches, mentors

technical/subject experts

English language, literacy and numeracy experts

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the purpose and aims of the assessment

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relevant competency standards and other assessment documentation

evidence plan

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possibilities for clustering units of competency for assessment purposes

identified OHS hazards, including assessed risks and control strategies

material/physical resources required

organisational arrangements for conducting assessment

OHS reporting requirements

any special assessment needs, e.g. personal protective equipment requirements

outline of assessment milestones, time lines and target dates

candidate self-assessment procedures

connections to relevant organisational plans, policies and procedures

**Assessment system policies and procedures may include:**

candidate selection

rational and purpose of competency-based assessment

assessment records/data management/information management

recognition of current competency/recognition of prior learning/credit arrangements

assessors - needs, qualifications, maintaining currency

assessment reporting procedures

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candidate grievances/complaints

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evaluation/internal audit

costs/resourcing

access and equity/reasonable adjustment

partnership arrangements

links with human resource or industrial relations systems

links with overall quality management system

**Organisational/legal/ethical requirements may include:**

assessment system policies and procedures

reporting, recording and retrieval systems for assessment

licensing/legal ramifications of assessing competence

requirements of training and/or assessment organisations relating to assessment and validation

quality assurance systems

business and performance plans

collaborative/partnership arrangements

policies, procedures and programs

defined resource parameters

mutual recognition arrangements

industrial relations systems and processes, awards/enterprise agreements

Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) Standards for Registered Training

Organisations (RTOs), in particular Standard 8, RTO assessments

registration scope

human resources policies/procedures

legal requirements including anti-discrimination, equal employment, job

role/responsibilities/conditions

relevant industry codes of practice

confidentiality and privacy requirements of information relating to completed assessments

OHS considerations, including:

ensuring OHS requirements are adhered to during the assessment process

identifying and reporting OHS hazards and concerns to relevant personnel

**Relevant people may include:**

the candidate/s

other assessors

the client, company or organisation

team leaders, managers, supervisors

trainers/facilitators

technical/subject experts

training and assessment coordinators

industry regulators

employee and employer representatives

members of professional associations

Commonwealth department official/Centrelink staff/caseworker

New Apprenticeship Centre (NAC) personnel

**Benchmark/s for assessment refers to:**

the criterion against which the candidate is assessed which, may be a competency standard/unit of competency, assessment criteria of course curricula, performance specifications, product specifications

**Assessment tools contain both the instrument and the procedures for gathering and interpreting evidence in accordance with designated assessment methods and may include:**

the instruments to be used for gathering evidence such as:

- a profile of acceptable performance measures
- templates/proformas
- specific questions or activities
- evidence/observation checklists
- checklists for the evaluation of work samples
- candidate self-assessment materials

the procedures, information and instructions for the assessor/candidate relating to the use of assessment instruments and assessment conditions

**Reasonable adjustment must not compromise the integrity of the competency standard and may include:**

adjustments to the assessment process taking into account candidate's language, literacy, numeracy requirements

provision of personal support services, for example, reader, interpreter, attendant carer, scribe, member of community in attendance

use of adaptive technology or special equipment

flexible assessment sessions to allow for fatigue or administering of medication

format of assessment materials, for example, in Braille, first language, use of audiotape/videotape

adjustments to the physical environment or venue

revising proposed assessment methods/tools

considerations relating to age and/or gender,

considerations relating to cultural beliefs, traditional practices, religious observances

**Assessment methods are the particular techniques used to gather different types of evidence and may include:**

direct observation, for example:

- real work/real time activities at the workplace
- work activities in a simulated workplace environment

structured activities, for example:

- simulation exercises/role-plays
- projects
- presentations
- activity sheets

questioning, for example:

- written questions, e.g. on a computer
- interviews
- self-assessment
- verbal questioning
- questionnaires
- oral/written examinations (for higher AQF levels)

portfolios, for example:

- collections of work samples by the candidate

- product with supporting documentation
  - historical evidence
  - journal/log book
  - information about life experience
- review of products, for example:
- products as a result of a project
  - work samples/products
- third party feedback, for example:
- testimonials/reports from employers/supervisors
  - evidence of training
  - authenticated prior achievements
  - interview with employer, supervisor, peer

**Principles of assessment guide the assessment process and must address:**

validity

reliability

flexibility

fairness

**Rules of evidence are closely related to the assessment principles and provide guidance on the collection of evidence to ensure that it is:**

valid

sufficient

authentic

current

**Quality evidence addresses the rules of evidence and must:**

encompass the Performance Criteria to demonstrate achievement of the outcomes (Elements)

reflect the skills, knowledge and attributes defined in the relevant units of competency

show application of the skills in the context described in the Range Statement

demonstrate competence over a period of time

demonstrate repeatable competence

be the work of the candidate

be able to be verified

demonstrate current skills/knowledge of the candidate

not inflate the language, literacy and numeracy requirements beyond those required in the performance of the competency

**Guided means to explain to the candidate:**

what is recognition-based assessment

what are assessment tools

how to use these tools

the rules of evidence that must be met by the evidence they provide

**Recognition of current competence is defined as:**

the process of assessment and formal recognition by an assessor of competence currently held by a candidate which has been gained through any combination of formal, informal training and education, work experience or real life experiences

**Communication skills may include:**

providing constructive and supportive feedback

using active listening

using appropriate questioning to clarify and confirm instructions for evidence gathering

accurately interpreting verbal messages

assisting candidates to paraphrase advice/instructions to the assessor  
making clear and concrete presentations of options/advice

**Interpersonal skills may include:**

accurately interpreting non-verbal messages  
engaging in two-way interaction  
using language appropriate to candidate, assessment context and work performance addressed by competency standards  
using language and concepts appropriate to cultural differences  
using culturally inclusive and sensitive techniques

**Individual differences may include:**

English language, literacy and numeracy barriers  
physical impairment or disability involving hearing, vision, voice, mobility  
intellectual impairment or disability  
medical conditions such as arthritis, epilepsy, diabetes and asthma that are not obvious but may impact on assessment  
learning difficulties  
psychiatric or psychological disability  
religious and spiritual observances  
cultural images/perceptions  
age  
gender

**Feedback may include:**

ensuring assessment process is understood  
ensuring candidate concerns are addressed  
enabling question and answer  
confirming outcomes  
identifying further evidence to be provided  
discussing action plans  
confirming gap training needed  
information regarding available appeal processes  
suggesting improvements in evidence gathering and presentation

**Specialist support may include:**

assistance by third party - carer, interpreter  
support from specialist educator  
development of online assessment activities  
support for remote or isolated candidates and/or assessors  
support from subject matter or safety experts  
advice from regulatory authorities  
assessment teams/panels  
support from lead assessors  
advice from policy development experts

**Addressed may include:**

stopping the assessment until the OHS risk is rectified  
stopping the assessment until the equipment is fixed or replaced

**Limitations may relate to:**

job role and responsibilities  
meeting candidate needs  
assessment panels



training and/or assessment organisation's quality processes  
 personal competency level  
 organisational, industry and national training requirements  
 personal level of knowledge of competency-based assessment  
 legal responsibilities

**All component parts of the competency standards refers to:**  
 elements

Performance Criteria

Range Statement/range of variables, including:

- contextualisation
- link to knowledge and enterprise requirements
- focus of assessment
- underpinning language, literacy and numeracy requirements

evidence guide requirements, including:

- underpinning/required knowledge
- underpinning/required skills and attributes
- underpinning language, literacy and numeracy requirements
- Key Competencies/generic skills
- critical aspects of evidence to be considered/quality evidence requirements
- concurrent assessment and interdependence of units
- assessment methods/resources/context

dimensions of competency, which include:

- task skills
- task management skills
- contingency management skills
- job role/environment skills

**Related documentation may include:**

Assessment Guidelines of the relevant Training Package/s

the assessment criteria of accredited modules

evidence to be collected as set out in assessment plans

definition and interpretation of evidence in developed assessment tools

any requirements of OHS, legislation, codes of practice, standards, guidelines

indicators and levels of competence of the National Reporting System

organisational requirements for work performance

product specifications

integrated competency assessment tool

**Judgement is a two-step process and means:**

the decision made by the assessor on whether the evidence provided meets the principles of assessment and rules of evidence

the decision made by the assessor, based on the evidence provided and evaluated, on whether the candidate is competent/not yet competent

**An action plan is required when the decision of not yet competent is recorded and may include:**

gap training, further learning

additional practice opportunities

additional assessment opportunities/evidence gathering opportunities

individual facilitation, where relevant

referral to specialist support

**An assessment report may include:**

personal details of candidate  
details of assessment/s, date, time, venue  
details of assessor's summary of evidence considered and copies of assessment papers  
feedback to and from the candidate  
justification of decision  
summary of candidate's action plan  
other critical information including appeals and outcomes  
sign-off by assessor and candidate  
electronic/paper reports to funding bodies

**Recommendations may include:**

recommendation to support training and/or assessment in new areas of competency  
recommendations in the action plan  
reassessment  
appeal implications

**Other relevant parties may include:**

Centrelink personnel  
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA)  
parties nominated by the candidate  
parties to be informed because of contractual obligations

**Criteria may include:**

following the assessment plan  
confirming and addressing organisational, ethical and legal requirements where appropriate, including OHS  
providing appropriate information regarding the assessment process to the candidate and explaining all steps, using effective communication and interpersonal skills  
demonstrated application of the rules of evidence and principles of assessment in gathering quality evidence  
demonstrated support and guidance to the candidate throughout the assessment process  
using assessment methods and tools appropriately to gather, organise and document evidence  
applying reasonable adjustments where required/ appropriate, in consultation with relevant people  
providing clear and constructive feedback to the candidate regarding the assessment decision  
reviewing range of own decisions for consistency

**Consultation may involve:**

moderation with other assessors, training and assessment coordinators  
discussions with the client, team leaders, managers, supervisors, coaches, mentors  
technical/subject experts  
English language, literacy and numeracy experts

**Unit Sector(s)**

Not applicable.