

## Carry out post-harvest activities

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### Overview

This standard is for those who carry out post-harvest activities to prepare a harvested crop for transfer to customer or storage. It includes activities such as selection, cleaning, drying, pre-storage treatments, grading, quality control, packing and labelling and storage where required. The types of preparation activities will depend on the crop involved and the customer or market requirement.

You will be working in accordance with instructions and specifications.

You must carry out your work in a way which will minimise the impact on the natural environment.

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

1. be aware of hazards associated with carrying out post-harvest activities
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. prepare, use, maintain and store equipment to carry out post-harvest activities safely and correctly
4. carry out post-harvest activities in accordance with production specifications
5. check prepared crop meets production specification requirements
6. identify harvested crop that does not meet production specification requirements and take action
7. maintain suitable levels of hygiene and biosecurity when carrying out post-harvest activities
8. follow organisational and industry environmental good practice to minimise environmental damage
9. where required prior to dispatch, store harvested crops in accordance with production specifications
10. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
11. dispose of waste or excess materials from post-harvest activities safely and correctly in accordance with specifications
12. complete post-harvest records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation
13. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and organisational policies

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

1. hazards associated with carrying out post-harvest activities
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. the types of equipment required to carry out post-harvest activities and how to prepare, use, maintain and store them safely and correctly, including the use of new technology
4. how to carry out required post-harvest activities in line with production specifications
5. how to identify harvested crops that do not meet production specifications and the action to take
6. why it is important to maintain suitable levels of hygiene and biosecurity during post-harvest activities and the methods for achieving this
7. relevant methods for storing harvested crops prior to dispatch
8. methods for the recycling or disposal of waste and excess material created by post-harvest activities
9. the post-harvest records which must be completed and the importance of completing them
10. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work
11. the importance of following relevant environmental and ecological best practice to help minimise the impact of your work on the environment
12. your responsibilities under relevant health and safety legislation, codes of practice and organisational policies

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**Scope/range**

A. use the following preparation methods when carrying out post-harvest activities:

1. handling
2. grading
3. packing or labelling
4. cleaning
5. drying

B. dispose of the following types of waste produced from post-harvest activities:

1. organic
2. inorganic

C. prepare post-harvested crops for:

1. transfer to customer
2. storage

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**Glossary**

Equipment could be manual or mechanical

Instructions: verbal or written.

Post-harvest activities:

- selection
- grading
- trimming
- packing/containering
- labelling
- cleaning
- drying
- pre-storage treatments
- quality control

Specifications: drawings, schedules, method statements, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), manufacturers' guidelines, customer requirements, organisational policies.

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**Relevant Occupations** Nursery Worker; Fruit and Vegetable Production Worker; Packer

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**Suite** Horticulture

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