
Overview

This standard covers the competences you need to carry out risk assessments on scientific or technical activity in accordance with approved procedures and practices.

You will be required to demonstrate that you can carry out risk assessments, identifying processes, tools, equipment or materials that have the potential to cause harm or damage to people, property or the environment. You will assess the level of risk, and consider how the risks can be eliminated, mitigated or controlled to minimise harm in accordance with workplace procedures.

The activity is likely to be undertaken by someone in a science related work setting, including individuals working in hospitals, scientific laboratories, schools and universities.

Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 ensure that your work is carried out in accordance with workplace procedures
 - P2 use safe practices and the appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) where scientific or technical activities are performed
 - P3 identify and agree the business and scientific or technical requirements of your role in the workplace
 - P4 establish processes that deliver scientific or technical outcomes based on organisational goals and aims
 - P5 define clearly why, when and where the risk assessment will be carried out
 - P6 ensure you have accurate and up-to-date information on the scientific or technical activity for which the risk assessment is to be carried out
 - P7 select a method of identifying hazards which is appropriate to the area being assessed
 - P8 identify work areas, processes, tools, equipment or materials that have the potential to cause harm or damage to people, property or the environment
 - P9 assess the level of risk, and consider how the risks can be eliminated, mitigated or controlled to minimise harm
 - P10 propose and record recommendations for dealing with the identified risks
 - P11 present the results of the work done to the appropriate people, in accordance with departmental and organisational procedures

Knowledge and understanding

- You need to know and understand:*
- K1 the health and safety requirements of the area in which you are carrying out the scientific or technical activities
 - K2 the implications of not taking account of legislation, regulations, standards and guidelines when conducting scientific or technical activities
 - K3 the scientific or technical techniques and processes you must use correctly in the workplace.
 - K4 the importance of wearing protective clothing, gloves and eye protection for scientific or technical activities
 - K5 the importance of correct identification, and any unique workplace coding system
 - K6 the organisational requirements for maintaining the security of the workplace and keeping confidential documents
 - K7 the workplace business aims and goals and the planning process
 - K8 the workplace organisational structure, its values and culture
 - K9 how your scientific or technical activities add value through delivering workplace products, services and processes
 - K10 the lines of communication and responsibilities in your department, and the links with the rest of the organisation
 - K11 the limits of your own authority and to whom you should report if you have problems that you cannot resolve
 - K12 how to identify and assess the scientific or technical requirements of your work roles
 - K13 the different ways in which you are set your agreed personal work objectives
 - K14 the different perspectives and approaches that are important when exercising autonomy or judgement about scientific or technical activities used
 - K15 the types of investigation initiated and used to review the effectiveness or appropriateness of methods, action and results of your scientific or technical work
 - K16 the specific scientific or technical work activities of the people where you are carrying out the risk assessment
 - K17 how to obtain information on the scientific or technical activities, and the health and safety regulations and requirements to be observed
 - K18 the particular health and safety risks which can arise from different activities undertaken, and the precautions that can be taken
 - K19 the various hazard spotting and safety assessment methods and techniques that can be used
 - K20 how to identify hazards which might arise from changes in working practices
 - K21 how to ensure that the hazard identification causes minimal disruption and concern to other people
 - K22 the potential implications of the risks

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- K23 methods of identifying hazards and assessing the probability of a risk situation occurring
 - K24 how to prioritise and manage hazards
 - K25 the types of risk assessment methods that are appropriate to different types of risk
 - K26 methods of collecting and evaluating information on risk assessment activities
 - K27 techniques for defining and controlling identified risks
 - K28 problems that can occur during risk assessments, and how these problems can be avoided or rectified
 - K29 the sources of technical expertise that can advise on health and safety risk assessments

Scope/range

1. carry out all of the following during the risk assessment activities:
 - 1.1 adhere to procedures or systems in place for COSHH, personal protective equipment and other relevant safety regulations
 - 1.2 obtain the required risk assessment documentation
 - 1.3 ensure the purpose and scope of the risk assessment to be carried out
 - 1.4 obtain approval to carry out the risk assessment activities from the appropriate people
 - 1.5 ensure that all appropriate personnel are fully informed of your intended activities
 - 1.6 ensure that risk assessment records are stored in a manner suited to future audit or investigation

2. conduct a risk assessment on three of the following laboratory activities:
 - 2.1 obtaining samples
 - 2.2 use of people for a specific activity
 - 2.3 preparing samples
 - 2.4 use of equipment for a specific activity
 - 2.5 testing samples
 - 2.6 use of materials for a specific activity
 - 2.7 obtaining resources or chemicals
 - 2.8 risks to the environment
 - 2.9 preparing resources or chemicals
 - 2.10 other (please specify)
 - 2.11 testing materials or equipment

3. carry out risk assessment using:
 - 3.1 direct observation plus two of the following
 - 3.2 employment regulations
 - 3.3 interviewing people
 - 3.4 accident reports
 - 3.5 expert technical advice
 - 3.6 quality standards
 - 3.7 manufacturer's/supplier's technical information

4. provide recommendations to deal with all of the following categories of risk:
 - 4.1 those that can be eliminated
 - 4.2 those that can be reduced
 - 4.3 those that remain constant

5. record and communicate details of the work done, to the appropriate people, using:
 - 5.1 verbal report plus one method from the following:
 - 5.2 written or typed report
 - 5.3 computer-based record
 - 5.4 specific workplace documentation

COGLATA4-04

Carry out risk assessments on scientific or technical activity



5.5 electronic mail

Developed by	Cogent
Version Number	2
Date Approved	February 2017
Indicative Review Date	February 2019
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	SEMTA
Original URN	O45NLATA4-04
Relevant Occupations	Professional Occupations; Science Professionals; Science and mathematics Science; Science
Suite	LABORATORY AND ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES SUITE 4 2010
Keywords	laboratory, technical, LATA, risk assessments, scientific, testing, employment regulations, accident reports, quality standards, manufacturer's information