
Overview

This standard covers the competences you need to maintain health and safety in science related work activity, in accordance with approved procedures and practices.

You will be required to demonstrate that you can use safe working practices throughout and will understand your responsibility for taking the necessary safeguards to protect yourself and others in the work place. You must also know what actions to take in case of an emergency in accordance with the relevant 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 accurately assess health and safety in relation to your work and the workplace
 - P3 use safe practices and the appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment for the work
 - P4 identify and rectify any breaches to health and safety procedures and report them to the appropriate person as soon as possible
 - P5 maintain the security of the workplace, in accordance with organisational requirements
 - P6 maintain and keep tidy your work area to a standard of health and safety which is consistent with local policies and legal requirements
 - P7 use equipment and materials in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and local safety regulations
 - P8 dispose of waste materials and substances safely and correctly
 - P9 take the appropriate precautions to protect yourself and others during work activities
 - P10 follow the correct procedure when an emergency arises or is suspected
 - P11 identify and recommend health and safety improvements to your work area and/or environment
 - P12 communicate the required information about the work done, to authorised 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 workplace procedures, as set down in local operating manuals and schemes of work
- K4 the importance of following manufacturers' instructions
- K5 the techniques and processes you must use correctly in the workplace
- K6 the importance of wearing protective clothing, gloves and eye protection for scientific or technical activities
- K7 the specific safety precautions to be taken when working with scientific or technical equipment and computer-based systems
- K8 the identity of health and safety representatives
- K9 the location and correct use of emergency equipment
- K10 the organisational requirements for maintaining the security of the workplace
- K11 the lines of communication and responsibilities in your department, and their links with the rest of the organisation
- K12 the limits of your own authority and to whom you should report if you have problems that you cannot resolve
- K13 why risks in the workplace should be assessed, and the correct action to be taken
- K14 local procedures for emergency evacuation
- K15 the location of fire alarm call points and how to operate them
- K16 the location of spillage kits and the procedures to follow in the event of spillages of chemicals and/or biological fluids and materials
- K17 how to identify and recommend health and safety improvements to your work area and/or environment
- K18 the control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) regulations, and their application in the workplace
- K19 the range of signs and symbols used for the warning of workplace hazards and prohibited practices
- K20 the types of hazards which may be present in the workplace and how these can be minimised
- K21 the correct storage and disposal procedures for hazardous materials
- K22 the hazards associated with chemicals, radioactive substances and/or biological materials
- K23 what constitutes dangerous occurrences and hazardous malfunctions in the workplace and why these must be reported
- K24 how to lift and carry loads safely, and use the manual and mechanical aids available in the workplace
- K25 the importance of safe storage of tools, equipment and materials

K26 the reasons for cleaning work surfaces and equipment

K27 why it is important to differentiate and segregate categories of waste

K28 the correct procedures for the storage, transport and disposal of waste

Scope/range

1. identify health and safety workplace procedures for all of the following:
 - 1.1 workplace hazards
 - 1.2 unsafe practices
 - 1.3 spillages
 - 1.4 manual handling
 - 1.5 VDU & RSI policies
 - 1.6 other (please specify)

2. use safe handling practices for three of the following, in accordance with approved procedures:
 - 2.1 flammables (liquid or solid)
 - 2.2 radioactive material
 - 2.3 pyrophoric material
 - 2.4 corrosive material
 - 2.5 water reactive material
 - 2.6 oxidiser
 - 2.7 equipment or tools
 - 2.8 explosive material
 - 2.9 unstable reactive
 - 2.10 toxic/harmful material
 - 2.11 extreme temperature
 - 2.12 sensitising/irritant substance
 - 2.13 biological material
 - 2.14 compressed gas
 - 2.15 manual handling/lifting loads

3. comply with established procedures for both of the following:
 - 3.1 workplace emergency (e.g. injury, spillage)
 - 3.2 workplace evacuation (e.g. fire, gas leak)

4. make recommendations on, or if appropriate, take action on both of the following:
 - 4.1 areas where the work practices do not fully comply with health and safety requirements
 - 4.2 improvements to handling and/or storage of materials, substances or equipment

5. record details of the work activities, and communicate the details 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
 - 5.5 electronic mail

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