Modification history

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

| AHCARBXX401 | Verify pruning specifications |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to verify specifications for pruning against tree conditions and national industry standards.  The unit applies to individuals who work in arboriculture and 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.  Legislation, regulations and by-laws relating to the treatment and removal of trees apply in some States and Territories. |
| Prerequisite Unit | AHCARBXX303 Perform pruning operations |
| Unit Sector | Arboriculture (ARB) |

| Elements | Performance Criteria |
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| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1. Locate and verify tree and site characteristics | 1.1 Confirm trees to be pruned and 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 according to workplace safety procedures  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 specifications | 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 specifications | 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 |
| 4. Confirm pruning works with client and work team | 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 specifications for pruning works and submit to client for approval according to workplace procedures and industry standards  4.4 Provide specification of pruning operations to work crew for implementation |
| 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  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. | |
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| Skill | Description |
| Reading | * Interpret complex documents, plans and specifications to extract critical information to compare pruning requirements against work performed |
| Writing | * Create, edit and proofread contracts, specifications and records ensuring clarity of meaning, accuracy and consistency of information |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| AHCARBXX401 Verify pruning specifications | AHCARB401 Verify pruning specifications | Prerequisite added  Elements and performance criteria clarified  Foundation skills added  Assessment requirements updated | Equivalent unit |

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| 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 AHCARBXX401 Verify pruning specifications |
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| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has verified three different classes of pruning on three different trees, including:   * confirmed and identified tree species to be pruned and 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 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 and relevant authority to proceed * provided specifications to work team for implementation * assessed pruning works against specifications and implemented remedial action where non-compliance was identified * reviewed pruning operations with work team and documented future improvements   maintained records and reported to client according to workplace procedures. | |

| Knowledge Evidence |
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| 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:   * assessing work health, safety, site and environment, including: * preparing JSAs and SWMS for site-specific risks * personal protective equipment used when climbing * safety and procedures when working near overhead power lines * tree species identification standards, including: * botanical nomenclature * common names * characteristics of trees and pruning operations, including: * 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 AS4373 for crown maintenance, including: * dead wooding * crown thinning * selective pruning * formative pruning * specifications and Australian standards AS4373 for crown modification, including: * reduction pruning * crown lifting * pollarding * remedial or restorative pruning * utilities line clearing * post pruning tree care, including: * impacts arising from pruning of live tissue * compensatory tree care activities * minimising transmission of diseases with pruning equipment and materials, including: * biosecurity requirements * basic principles of hygiene when maintaining tools and equipment * pruning procedures and methods, including: * 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: * stem co-dominance * stem bark ridge * old cuts * dead branches * occluded and occluding branches * basics of contracts and their purpose in arboriculture work, including: * client communication strategies * verbal contracts * documented contracts * legal requirements * importance of gaining regulatory approvals * specifying and documenting pruning work requirements * record keeping and reporting procedures when verifying pruning specifications. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * three different trees stipulated in the performance evidence resources, equipment and materials: * computer for accessing information and documenting outcomes * specifications: * client or arborists specifications for pruning as stipulated in the performance evidence * workplace procedures and instructions, related to pruning operations * industry standards relating to tree pruning operations including AS 4373 * relationships: * client and work team.   Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.  In addition, the following specific assessor requirements apply to this unit:  • 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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