



## Assessment Policy (V1)

Responsibility for Implementation: Head of Trainers

Authority: Approved by PEO

Date of Approval: 7 Oct 2015 (V1)

Date of Review: Oct 2017, Oct 2019

Next Review: Oct 2021

### 1. What is competency?

Competency involves the specification of skills and knowledge and their application to a particular standard of performance required in the workplace. Aspects of work performance included in this concept involve:

- Performance at an acceptable level of technical skill;
- Organising one's tasks;
- Responding and reacting appropriately when things go wrong; and
- Transferring skills and knowledge to new situations and contexts.

### 2. Assessment

Assessment is the process of collecting evidence and making judgements on the extent and nature of performance and other requirements, as described in a set of standards, or learning outcomes, resulting in a judgement of whether or not competency has been demonstrated.

Effective and objective assessment is key to the successful implementation of competency standards in the workplace and in education. This is the judgement of performance and knowledge against the relevant industry competency standards. Assessment is carried out by the comparison of a candidate's evidence of skills and knowledge, against the requirements of the Standards.

#### 2.1. Underlying principles of assessment

For an effective assessment system in a competency environment, some basic principles must apply:

##### 2.1.1. Validity

The assessments actually assess what they claim to assess and what they have been designed to assess. Validity of assessment is achieved when:

- Assessors are fully aware of what is to be assessed, as indicated by the standards of competence, including clearly defined performance criteria
- Appropriate evidence is collected from activities that can be clearly related to the units of competency.

##### 2.1.2. Authenticity

The evidence collected is authentic - that is, it is actually derived from valid sources and is directly attributable to the individual.



### **2.1.3. Reliability**

Reliable assessment uses methods and procedures that ensure that the competency standards are interpreted and applied consistently from person to person and from context to context.

- The following are important to ensure that assessment produces consistent outcomes:
- Clear, unambiguous, well-documented assessment procedures and competency standards;
- Clear, consistent and specific assessment criteria;
- Effectively trained, briefed and monitored assessors;
- Adequate assessors across industries and a hierarchy of assessment which ensures a quality outcome; and
- Assessment is carried out within a system flexible enough to cope with multiple and diverse forms of evidence.

### **2.1.4. Consistency**

The assessment system must ensure that evidence collected and provided for judgement is consistent across the range, without undue reliance on any small number of select workplace contexts or projects.

### **2.1.5. Currency**

Under an effective system, assessment evaluates whether or not the individual's skills and knowledge are current and can be applied in today's workplace. As a general rule, competencies that have not been demonstrated within the past 3 years are not usually accepted as "current". However, an assessor, under some circumstances may make exceptions to the specified period.

There may be specific situations where individual skills have not been directly applied for a longer period, but these skills are in fact still current for the individual. In cases such as this, evidence from earlier periods may be admissible, and assessed for currency, within an appropriately flexible assessment system.

### **2.1.6. Sufficiency**

Evidence of competency should be sufficient to cover all the elements, performance criteria and required range of variables in the standards against which assessment is to be carried out.

A tendency of many candidates is to provide more (or less) evidence than is actually required to prove competency against the standards. An effective assessment system ensures that candidates are clearly advised regarding the amount and form of evidence, which is sufficient to prove competency. This should avoid the situation where masses of evidence are provided, requiring assessors to spend more time than necessary per candidate, or too little evidence, making it difficult to judge competence.

### **2.1.7. Flexibility**

Every portfolio or set of candidate evidence is unique. Each candidate will identify and develop his or her own specific set of evidence to prove competency against the standards. This set will be based on the workplace experience of the candidate and will comprise diverse types and forms of relevant and appropriate evidence.



Assessors must be capable of taking a flexible approach to the assessment of evidence. Clearly, this approach must always take time and cost into account - both to ensure the best use of assessor time and from the viewpoint of the candidate and his or her employer.

An assessment system must evaluate the scope of knowledge and skills covered by the criteria - both performance (skill) and underpinning knowledge & understanding.

### 2.1.8. Fairness and Equity

An assessment system and its processes must not disadvantage any person or organisation. All eligible candidates must be guaranteed access to assessment, which does not discriminate on any basis. Assessment guidelines must include an approach for working with candidates who have special needs. To achieve these principles, the assessment system must exhibit the following characteristics:

- The standards, assessment processes and all associated information are straight forward and understandable;
- The characteristics of potential candidates are identified, to enable all potential assessment issues to be identified and catered for;
- The chosen processes and materials within the system of assessment do not disadvantage candidates;
- An appropriate and effective review and dispute resolution mechanism is in place to investigate, examine and redress any issue of unfairness or disadvantage identified, involving access, assessment, certification or any other related issue; and
- Where potential disadvantages are identified, the system is amended to avoid or counter them, or appropriate steps taken to overcome them including reassessment if required.

## 3. Assessors

The role of an assessor is to objectively assess and judge a candidate's evidence against a set of standards. In order to do this effectively, an assessor must have a sound knowledge of, and be skilled in, the relevant industry area. In addition, the assessor must have acknowledged competency in assessment itself and hold an appropriate training and assessment qualification or equivalent.

An assessor must:

- Interpret and understand the criteria;
- Ensure that evidence meets the standards;
- Ensure that evidence is valid, authentic, reliable, consistent, current and sufficient; and
- Use expertise to make fair and objective judgements.

The training and ongoing professional development of assessors must include such areas as:

- Roles, responsibilities and ethics;
  - Procedural and administrative duties;
  - Performance and knowledge evidence gathering and presentation;
  - Interpretation and usage of standards;
  - Selecting and using appropriate methods of assessment; and
  - Requirements regarding processing and recording of results, progress and feedback.
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It is crucial that assessors always understand and practise fair, objective, unbiased and flexible assessment processes.

#### **4. Forms of evidence**

In general, basic forms of skills evidence include:

Direct performance evidence - current or from an acceptable past period - from:

- extracted examples within the workplace;
- natural observation in the workplace; and
- simulations, including competency and skills tests, projects, assignments

Supplementary evidence, from:

- oral and written questioning;
- personal reports; and
- Witness testimony.

Appropriate and valid forms of assessment utilised for both skills and knowledge may include:

- Evaluation of direct products of work;
- Natural observation;
- Skill tests, simulations and projects;
- Evaluation of underpinning knowledge and understanding;
- Questioning and discussion; and
- Evidence from prior achievement and activity.

##### **4.1. Submission of assessment evidence**

Assessment tasks required to be submitted electronically via EEVI's Moodle (learning management system) to the specific unit of competency's submission links and candidates need to ensure that they meet the stipulated deadlines indicated for each assessment submission. This is to facilitate the candidate's ability to complete the assessments more effectively with appropriate planning between managing work and studies in a proactive manner.

##### **4.2. Late Assessment Fee**

The late assessment fee is only charged if the student cannot be assessed on scheduled due date or cannot submit assignment on the due date, and he/she does not have compelling reason with evidence (e.g., sickness) to be late assessed; and he/she did not apply for late assessment from the assessor and obtained approval before the assessment due date. The late assessment will result in a Late Assessment Fee of AUD\$50/- per assessment.

##### **4.3. Re-Assessment Fee**

If a student has submitted an assessment, but failed to achieve the competency requirements for this assessment, the student has the opportunity to be re-assessed. The re-assessment will incur a re-Assessment Fee of AUD\$100/- per assessment, which is caused by additional assessment work and the guidance to student to be re-assessed.

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#### **4.4. Reasonable consideration for illness, injury or accidents**

Reasonable consideration is an appeal process that affords equal opportunity to candidates who have experienced circumstances that adversely impact their ability to adequately complete an assessment task in a unit of study. Where candidates are unable to complete their assessment/ s due to illness, injury or accidents and reasonable consideration has been granted (upon the approval by student services department), they will be required to make up all the missed time/ late assessment submissions.

#### **4.5. Candidates with special needs**

One fundamental principle of an assessment system is that each candidate must have access to fair and open assessment. Candidates with special needs should be offered the same opportunities as any other candidate.

As special needs extend to more than identify physical or learning difficulties, an assessor will also need to consider the best approach when dealing with candidates with needs such as low literacy, lack of confidence or non-English speaking background.

An assessor must take special needs into consideration from the planning stage onwards and adopt particular assessment methods as appropriate. Depending on any specification given in the standards, the assessor may be able to accept alternative evidence from a candidate with special needs.

If there is uncertainty, the assessor should call on other assessors or a verifier for assistance and guidance, as required. In such a case, the situation must be fully documented, with appropriate feedback being provided to the candidate at all stages.

### **5. Feedback**

Where students are assessed as not competent, they will be provided with additional feedback on their assessment outcome to assist in achieving the required performance standard on reassessment.

### **6. Assessment Appeal**

Students who are dissatisfied with their assessment outcome may apply for assessment appeal by contacting the Head of Trainers. If after appeal, the student is assessed with Competent, no any fee will be charged and the student's academic record will be updated. If after appeal, the student is still assessed with Not Yet Competent, he/she can apply for re- assessment. Then re-assessment fee of \$100/- per assessment will be applied.

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