



Draft Preview

DRAFT APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR THE DETECTION AND PROTECTION WORKING DOG SPECIALIST APPRENTICESHIP

ST1298/V2

APPRENTICESHIP REFERENCE NUMBER	LEVEL OF THIS APPRENTICESHIP	INTEGRATION
ST1298	3	None

Assessment Plan

Assessment details

Introduction

This Apprenticeship Assessment Plan (AAP) sets out the requirements for the assessment of the level 3 detection and protection working dog specialist apprenticeship. It should be read in conjunction with the General Requirements for Apprenticeship Assessment. Where there is conflict between this AAP and the General Requirements, this AAP takes precedence. Assessment organisations must also comply with the relevant regulatory framework for apprenticeship assessment.

It is important that the assessment of apprentices is proportionate, valid, and provides reliable evidence of an apprentice's attainment of the relevant knowledge and skills. As such, assessment organisations must design assessments to ensure:

- employers have confidence that the apprentice has reached the expected performance standard
- apprentices are sufficiently secure in their knowledge and skills, so that they could demonstrate their competence in different contexts, for example, a different workplace

Assessment Outcomes

The assessment outcomes group and summarise the knowledge and skills that must be demonstrated in assessments. All assessment outcomes must be assessed.

Knowledge and skills statements in **bold** are mandatory and must be assessed in every version of the assessment that is made available.

Knowledge and skills statements which offer opportunities to develop functional English and maths are identified with an asterisk.

Assessment Outcome	Mapping
AO1 Operational deployment and task integration Plans, prepares and conducts operational deployments involving DPWDs. Applies reconnaissance, environmental, logistical and risk considerations, including decision-making models, to integrate DPWDs into operations.	K2, K16, K21*, K23, K25 S7, S18
AO2 Training and performance development Designs, applies and evaluates individual and integrated training programmes to develop and maintain DPWD operational capability. Applies learning theory, performance standards and recorded evidence to assess effectiveness, identify training and behaviour needs and support licensing or certification.	K3, K8, K14, K20, K27* S3*, S9*, S11, S13*, S21*
AO3 Health, welfare and working-life management Maintains and monitors the physical and psychological health of DPWDs across their working life. Applies welfare legislation, preventative care, nutrition, behavioural monitoring and first aid to promote welfare, manage life-stage transitions and support preparation for retirement.	K7, K10, K15, K18, K19*, K26* S2, S12*, S14, S15*, S19
AO4 Safety, risk and compliance management Identifies, assesses and manages health, safety and security risks associated with DPWD activity. Applies legislation, policies and organisational procedures to balance animal welfare, public safety and operational requirements across training, deployment and routine management.	K6, K9, K11, K13, K17, K24 S4, S10*
AO5 Facilities, equipment and resource use Establishes and manages accommodation, equipment, training aids, transportation and supporting resources for DPWD operations. Applies safe handling, storage, maintenance, sustainability and disposal requirements to ensure resources support operational practices.	K1*, K22 S1*, S16, S17*
AO6 Communication, documentation and handler development	K4*, K5, K12* S5*, S6*, S8*, S20*

Communicates DPWD capability, welfare requirements and operational limitations to a range of stakeholders. Maintains documentation, engages with supporting agencies and provides coaching and mentoring to support handler development and overall capability.	
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Assessment requirements

Assessment organisations must set apprenticeship assessments. Assessment organisations should consider how technology and digital tools can support innovation and efficiency.

Assessment organisations must design apprenticeship assessments to include at least one **observation**.

Any additional assessment, or assessments, must be selected from the following list of methods, to ensure the assessment outcomes are met in full. Assessments available in the list may be used more than once:

- additional observation
- simulation
- written assessment
- portfolio
- question and answer
- professional discussion

Apprentices may be assessed at any appropriate point during their apprenticeship programme.

Assessments may be designed to allow a centre or training provider to mark assessments. The assessment organisation is responsible for ensuring all assessments are sufficiently reliable and valid, and for the accuracy of any centre or training provider marking.

Performance descriptors

Performance descriptors describe the level of performance required to achieve a pass or distinction grade. Assessment organisations must design assessments that align with these descriptions.

Performance Category	Pass	Distinction
Applied Knowledge	Demonstrates sound application of factual, procedural, and theoretical knowledge across routine and non-routine DPWD tasks, completing them to an acceptable standard.	Applies a thorough understanding of factual, procedural, and theoretical knowledge to manage and resolve routine and non-routine DPWD tasks with discernment and skill.
Applied Skills	Identifies and applies appropriate DPWD skills, methods, and procedures to complete tasks and address challenges with a reasonable degree of autonomy and effectiveness.	Selects and integrates appropriate DPWD skills, methods, and procedures proactively and resourcefully to complete tasks and address challenges effectively and with minimal oversight.
Regulatory and Procedural Awareness	Applies legislation, regulation, and guidance relevant to DPWD operations without error, with some depth of insight and adaptability.	Demonstrates refined judgement in interpreting legislation, regulation, and guidance relevant to DPWD operations, confidently navigating nuanced issues in practice.
Communication and Collaboration	Participates effectively in team environments and demonstrates effective communication and stakeholder interaction skills that support daily operations.	Communicates persuasively and adapts confidently to different audiences and team dynamics, taking initiative in delivering stakeholder and colleague interactions.
Information Use and Decision Making	Accurately interprets and evaluates relevant DPWD operational information from a variety of sources to support problem-	Evaluates diverse and sometimes conflicting information sources with insight, drawing informed conclusions that improve task outcomes or efficiency.

	solving in mostly familiar but sometimes complex work contexts.	
Responsibility and Autonomy	Takes responsibility for initiating and completing DPWD operational tasks within set parameters and, where relevant, contributes to guiding or supporting others.	Pre-empting the need for tasks to be initiated within set parameters, demonstrating accountability and responsiveness to emerging priorities or risks, and leading others to achieve team outcomes.

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