

Conduct environmental monitoring on a waste management facility

WO23

Area of competence

This national occupational standard defines the competences required to monitor environmental conditions to comply with environmental conditions for a waste management facility. It involves using different techniques and approved methods of taking samples for testing and analysis. It requires ensuring monitoring data is recorded and stored securely. It requires understanding the conditions permitted and being able to use data and information to alert people to situations which are non-compliant and need to be resolved.

Skills and competencies which demonstrate effective performance

You show that you are competent to:

- **Conduct environmental monitoring**
- **Inspect, sample and test waste in line with operational procedures**
- **Use and communicate data and information in line with operational procedures**
- **Resolve problems which arise from conducting environmental monitoring**

Conduct environmental monitoring

1. Carry out environmental monitoring to meet the waste management permit requirements for the site
2. Use approved techniques - for each factor being monitored - in accordance with organisational procedures
3. Before use ensure that monitoring, and measuring, equipment has been correctly calibrated in accordance with organisational procedures
4. Select and use the designated personal protective equipment (PPE) accordance with operational procedures
5. Use sampling and testing instruments and equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications
6. Clean sampling and testing instruments and equipment after use to ensure it is maintained in sound operational condition
7. Make sure regulations and guidelines for maintaining security are not compromised during monitoring or sampling on or around the site

Inspect, sample and test waste in line with operational procedures

8. Carry out visual and physical checks on wastes delivered to the site in compliance with organisational procedures
9. Verify wastes are correctly labelled and comply with descriptions and specifications contained in the transfer documentation



10. Sample wastes, using approved methods to have them tested, to verify the description in transfer documentation



11. Carry out tests which have been authorised

Use and communicate data and information in line with operational procedures

- 12. Check the completion of documents for wastes being accepted, treated or dispatched, to ensure they are accurate and legible, and store them in the designated place
- 13. Record the results of visual checks and physical tests on wastes and record the test results in compliance with operational procedures
- 14. Record all environmental monitoring inspections in compliance with organisational procedures
- 15. Record and report non-compliance of test samples when they do not meet the description given in transfer documentation
- 16. Report - to the designated person - non-compliance of samples with waste transfer documentation, and arrange for the waste rejection procedures to be initiated

Resolve problems which arise from conducting environmental monitoring

- 17. Advise colleagues and managers of situations that have the potential to be hazardous to others or to the site and its environment
- 18. Report - to the designated person - situations that are outside the responsibility of the job role
- 19. Report - to the designated person - breaches of site security
- 20. Report defective equipment and make arrangements for its repair or replacement in accordance with organisational requirements

Behaviour which underpins effective performance

You work in a manner which:

Recognises and acts when others need support
Takes responsibility for resolving problems in your work area
Is receptive to new ways of working
Treats people with civility

Knowledge and understanding

You know and understand the following:

General

- a. The classifications and types of waste
- b. The potential hazards associated with different wastes
- c. How to identify work-related hazards and risks
- d. Details of operational procedures and documentation
- e. How to deal constructively with colleagues and other people and resolve disagreements
- f. How to use personal protective equipment (PPE) in line with operational procedures



- g. Operational procedures and why it is important to comply with them
- h. The limits of the job responsibility when communicating with others

Waste facility monitoring

- i. The approved methods for inspecting, sampling and testing wastes
- j. The risks and threats posed by different types of wastes
- k. How to select and use techniques relevant to the monitoring process
- l. How to calibrate and operate the monitoring and measuring instruments and equipment
- m. The methods for sampling
- n. The implications of legal and organisational regulations for environmental monitoring and testing
- o. The environmental permit requirements for waste management facilities
- p. The procedures for dealing with rejected waste
- q. How to use control documentation and procedures