

Queensland Health Departmental Standard

Competency requirements for authority holders
dealing with poisons – version 2

6 October 2023



Queensland
Government

Queensland Health Departmental Standard: Competency requirements for authority holders dealing with poisons – version 2

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Version control

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Preface

The Departmental Standard – *Competency requirements for authority holders dealing with poisons* (this Standard) has been made pursuant to section 233 of the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* (the Act) by the Chief Executive of Queensland Health and establishes the minimum competency requirements for persons seeking to carry out regulated activities with poisons.

Maintaining the health and wellbeing of users of regulated substances, as well as the general public who may be exposed to these substances, is the primary focus of the medicines and poisons regulatory framework. By achieving the main purposes of the Act, Queensland Health is confident that this outcome will be attained. Compliance with this Standard will assist in ensuring that persons who are authorised to carry out regulated activities using regulated substances have the necessary competencies to carry out the activities safely.

This Standard must be followed where it is referenced by the Act or Medicines and Poisons (Poisons and Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2021 (the Poisons Regulation) or when it is required as a condition of an authority.

The Standard provides minimum criteria and acceptable actions to achieve the required outcomes. Where more than one course of action is acceptable to achieve the outcomes required, the authorised person may choose the option that is practicable to their needs.

The words ‘must’ or ‘shall’ used in this Standard mean the requirement is mandatory.

The words ‘should’ or ‘may’ recommends a discretionary course of action.

A term used in this Standard that is defined in the Act or the Regulation, has the same meaning as stated in the Act or Regulation. The Glossary in this Standard includes relevant definitions from the Act and Regulation, in addition to defining other terms used for the purpose of this Standard.

Object of this Standard

The object of this Standard is to prescribe the minimum competency requirements for specific types of regulated activities.

Sections 30 and 62 of the Act state that the holder of a substance authority is authorised to carry out a regulated activity with a regulated substance, provided they carry out the activity in the 'authorised way' as defined in section 31 of the Act.

Completing the competencies detailed in this Standard is a necessary requirement prior to a determination being made relevant to an application for a substance authority and is in addition to the other requirements when applying for a substance authority under Chapter 3, Part 3 of the Act.

Accordingly, this Standard should be used by applicants as a pre-check of the competency requirements prior to applying for a substance authority.

Scope

This Standard prescribes competency requirements for:

- applying restricted S7 poisons (RS7) for invasive animal control; and
- supervising the manufacture of poisons to carry out regulated activities.

In accordance with section 76(3) of the Act, the Chief Executive (or delegate) must have regard to this Standard when considering an application for a substance authority which relates to matters stated in this Standard.

Where competencies have been updated, the updated competencies may be considered by the Chief Executive (or delegate) for their suitability to allow a person to undertake regulated activities, along with the superseded competencies.

Part 1 – Competency requirements for dealing with Restricted Schedule 7 (RS7) poisons for invasive animal control

Criterion	Primary competency Equivalent and accepted competencies to those specified in this column are provided in Appendix 1
<p>1.1. Invasive animal control using other than concentrates of fluoroacetic acid or low risk fluoroacetic acid baits (LRFABs) by landholders</p>	<p>A. AHCCHM304 – Transport and store chemicals; and AHCCHM307 – Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases.</p>
<p>1.2. Invasive animal control using concentrates of fluoroacetic acid by landholders</p>	<p>A. AHCCHM304 – Transport and store chemicals; and AHCCHM307 – Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases; and AHCPMG312 – Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes.</p>
<p>1.3. Invasive animal control using RS7 poisons by commercial baiting operators, authorised officers under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and nature conservation officers under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i></p>	<p>A. AHCCHM304 – Transport and store chemicals; and AHCCHM307 – Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases; and AHCPMG312 – Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes.</p>
<p>1.4. Burrowing invasive animal control using gaseous poisons by commercial baiting operators, authorised officers under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and nature conservation officers under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i></p>	<p>A. CPPUPM3011—Manage organisms by applying fumigants to commodities and environments</p>

Part 2 – Competency requirements for manufacturing supervisors

Criterion	Primary competency ¹
1.5. Supervising the manufacture of hazardous poisons or prohibited substances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Bachelor of Science or Applied Science (majoring in chemistry) OR B. Bachelor of Chemical or Process Engineering OR C. Bachelor of Pharmacy OR D. Diploma in Science or Applied Science (majoring in chemistry) OR E. Certificate in Chemistry from a recognised training organisation
1.6. Supervising the manufacture of LRFABs (as fresh baits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. AHCCHM304 – Transport and store chemicals; and AHCCHM307 – Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases; and AHCPMG312 – Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes.

¹ Chief Executive will consider the scale of the manufacturing process to determine the adequacy of the qualification (and may exercise their discretion when determining that a certain qualification is required).

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Burrowing invasive animal	(a) A European fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>); or (b) A European rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)
Bait	Food or a baiting device (e.g. pest ejector device or lethal trap) containing a poison intentionally used to attract and kill a pest or an invasive animal
Chief Executive	The Chief Executive of Queensland Health
Commercial Baiting Operator	A person who carries out invasive animal control as an independent contractor
Concentrates of fluoroacetic acid	Fluoroacetic acid in liquid form, containing greater than 0.5 grams per litre (but not including fluoroacetic acid in capsules used for ejector devices)
Gaseous poison	As defined Schedule 7 of the Poisons Regulation: An S7 poison that is APVMA approved for use to control a burrowing invasive animal when the poison is in the form of a gas.
Hazardous poison	As defined in section 16 of the <i>Medicines and Poisons Act 2019</i>
Invasive animal	As defined in Schedule 7 of the Poisons Regulation: (a) A cat (<i>Felis catus</i> or <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> x <i>Felis Catus</i>), other than a domestic cat; or (b) A dingo (<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>); or (c) A dog (<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>), other than a domestic dog; or (d) A European fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>); or (e) A European rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>); or (f) A feral pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>).
Low-risk fluoroacetic acid bait (LRFAB)	As defined in section 10 of the Poisons Regulation Is a poison that is fluoroacetic acid in the form of a bait containing the acid in a concentration of not more than 0.5 grams for each kilogram of the bait *Baits may be in prepared (fresh) or manufactured (shelf-stable) form
Manufacturing supervisor	For a manufacturing licence, means the person responsible for supervising manufacture of regulated poisons under the licence
PAPP	4-aminopropiophenone (para-aminopropiophenone)

Term	Meaning
Poison	As defined in section 12 of the <i>Medicines and Poisons Act 2019</i>
Prohibited substance	As defined in section 13 of the <i>Medicines and Poisons Act 2019</i>
RS7 poisons for invasive animal control, include:	Fluoroacetic acid in concentrates of fluoroacetic acid, capsule for ejector devices or LRFABs Strychnine PAPP in capsule for ejector devices or manufactured baits.
RS7 poisons (other than concentrates of fluoroacetic acid or LRFABs) for invasive animal control, include:	Strychnine, Manufactured (shelf stable) baits containing PAPP, and Capsules for ejector devices containing fluoroacetic acid or PAPP.

Appendix 1 – Primary and equivalent competencies

Primary competencies	Equivalent competencies		
AHCCHM307 - Prepare and apply chemicals to control pest, weeds and diseases	AHCCHM303 - Prepare and apply chemicals	AHCCHM303A - Prepare and apply chemicals	RTC3704A – Prepare and apply chemicals
AHCCHM304 - Transport and store chemicals	AHCCHM304A - Transport, handle and store chemicals	RTC3705A – Transport, handle and store chemicals	
CPPUPM3011 – Manage organisms by applying fumigants to commodities and environments	CPPPMT3011 – Manage organisms by applying fumigants to commodities and environments	PRMPM11 – Conduct fumigation	