

Consultation Paper for Draft 1 MSL Laboratory Operations Training Package Point of Care Testing

General update

This consultation paper provides key information about proposed changes to the MSL Laboratory Operations Training Package and should be read prior to providing feedback on any drafts.

The proposed changes to training package components have been informed by feedback from stakeholders and overseen by industry representatives who form a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The [Process Manufacturing, Recreational Vehicles and Laboratory Industry Reference Committee](#) have final authority over the MSL Laboratory Operations Training Package.

Once the public consultation period ends on **Friday, 23 August 2019**, the TAC will meet to discuss feedback which will inform the development of draft 2, scheduled for public consultation later in 2019.

Submitting feedback

Feedback should be emailed to manufacturing@ibsa.org.au by **Friday, 23 August 2019**. The draft training package component has been provided in word to enable changes to be marked up.

Please note, it is just as important for us to receive feedback telling us you agree with the draft as it is to provide feedback telling us where there is opportunity for improvement.

Key information about draft unit

Testing of samples, often in pathology, has traditionally been a multi-step process as samples were required to be sent to a laboratory for testing before a clinician could access results. This process is time-consuming and can delay diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease. The development of Point of Care (PoC) technology has allowed some testing to be performed at the time and place of patient care. A properly trained Point of Care Testing (PoCT) operator could perform a test and access results that can be used to make immediate informed decisions about individual care.

Due to a significant prevalence of Point of Care Testing within industry, it has readily become a priority to educate workers on correct PoCT procedures and methods. The development of formal training in PoCT is welcomed by employers, as employees operating in a number of different roles would be able to learn new skills, which prepare them for trends currently sweeping the industry, and which are only predicted to increase.

The draft unit 'Process samples using a point of care testing device' describes the skills and knowledge required to complete pre-analytics, analyse samples, record results and maintain a point of care (PoCT) testing device.

Industry has identified that a worker who would likely undertake this training is required to be a proficient PoCT operator who is responsible for the management of the device, as well as additional administrative tasks.

As a result, the draft unit applies to a broad range of occupations and is relevant to operators working directly with clients and those working in laboratories, who follow standard operating procedures and quality systems to analyse samples after the initial collection process.

Key questions to consider...

1. Does the proposed new unit reflect current industry practice?
2. Does the proposed new unit reflect current industry terminology?
3. Are the performance evidence requirements for the unit appropriate?
 - processed 3 different samples
 - completed device maintenance on at least 2 occasions
 - performed at least 1 routine quality control test.
4. Does the knowledge evidence clearly articulate the scope and depth of knowledge required to process samples using a PoCT device?
 - Should be a greater focus on quality systems? i.e. understanding quality control and quality assurance.