



# AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIAN

(ANZSCO Code: 311111)

Group C



### About this document

- » The following Information Sheet is for your reference only and should be used as a guide to assist with your Skills Assessment application to VETASSESS. This information is subject to change.
- » Please note that a Skills Assessment of the qualification involves assessment of both the qualification level and content. Qualifications are assessed according to the guidelines published by the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.
- » The employment assessment involves determining the skill level and relevance of the tasks undertaken.
- » Integrity checks may be conducted to verify the qualification and employment claims made in an application.

### Job description

An Agricultural Technician performs tests and experiments, and provides technical support to assist Agricultural Scientists in areas such as research, production, servicing and marketing.

#### Alternative Title:

Agricultural Technical Officer

### Occupations considered suitable under this ANZSCO code:

- » Agriculture Laboratory Technician
- » Artificial Insemination Technical Officer
- » Dairy Technician
- » Field Crop Technical Officer
- » Herd Tester
- » Horticultural Technical Officer
- » Poultry Technical Officer

### Occupations not considered under this ANZSCO code:

- » Agricultural Consultant
- » Agricultural Scientist
- » Science Technicians nec

These occupations are classified elsewhere in ANZSCO or are not at the required skill level.

### Agricultural Technician is a VETASSESS Group C occupation

This occupation requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the educational level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher.

Applicants can fulfil the assessment criteria for this occupation in four different ways.














Quality  
ISO 9001

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## Qualification and employment criteria

Applicants must have fulfilled at least one of the following four criteria (1-4):

GROUP C	Criteria for a positive Skills Assessment						
	Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level	With highly relevant major field of study	Additional highly relevant qualifications*	Highly relevant employment duration**			
1		+		+	N/A	+	
2		+	No highly relevant major	+	 Minimum AQF Certificate IV level with highly relevant major	+	
3		+	No highly relevant major	+	No additional highly relevant qualifications	+	
Pre-qualification methodology can apply to Group C occupations							
	Highly relevant employment duration**	With or without highly relevant major field of study	Additional highly relevant qualifications*	Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level			
4	 +  Within last 5 years	+	N/A	+	N/A	+	

\* Additional qualifications in a highly relevant field of study include those comparable to the following levels:

- AQF Diploma
- AQF Advanced Diploma
- AQF Associate Degree or
- AQF Graduate Diploma

\*\* Highly relevant paid employment duration (20 hours or more per week)

1-3

minimum years of employment highly relevant to the nominated occupation, completed at an appropriate skill level in the five years before the date of application for a Skills Assessment.

4

minimum 4 years of relevant employment required – three years of relevant employment (can be outside the last 5-year period) in addition to at least one year of highly relevant employment within the last five years before applying.



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## Qualification and employment criteria continued...

\*If employment is prior to the completion of the qualification at the required level, an applicant must have at least one year of highly relevant employment at an appropriate skill level within the last five years. The remaining three years of pre-qualifying period may be within the last ten years.

A positive assessment of both qualification level and employment duration is required for a positive Skills Assessment outcome.

### Qualification

AQF Diploma degree or higher qualification. This includes qualifications assessed at AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level.

Highly relevant fields of study include:

- » Agricultural Science
- » Animal Science & Management
- » Crop Science/Agronomy
- » Viticulture
- » Plant and Animal Production

Qualifications in certain science fields may be accepted on a case-by-case basis if the program consists of sufficient subjects in Agricultural systems, Agronomy, Animal Science, Chemistry, Grazing systems, Plant cultivation and core subjects in their respective specialised fields. Major projects, Thesis and/or internships are important determining factors.

- » Horticulture
- » Biotechnology
- » Veterinary Science
- » Biochemistry
- » Life Science (Biology)
- » Botany/Zoology
- » Soil Science
- » Environmental Science.

### Employment

Highly relevant tasks include, but are not limited to:

- » Examining topographical, physical and soil characteristics of farmland to determine its most effective use and identify nutrient deficiencies
- » Assisting in developing new methods of planting, fertilising, harvesting and processing crops to achieve optimum land usage
- » Identifying pathogenic micro-organisms and insects, parasites, fungi and weeds harmful to crops and livestock, and assisting in devising methods of control
- » Analysing produce to set and maintain standards of quality
- » Inspecting livestock to gauge the effectiveness of feed formulae
- » Assisting in controlled breeding experiments to develop improved crop and livestock strains
- » Arranging the supply of drugs, vaccines and other chemicals to Farmers and Farm Managers, and giving advice on their use
- » Collecting and collating data for research
- » Planning slaughtering, harvesting and other aspects of production processes
- » May advise producers on farming techniques and management.

### Employment information

Agricultural Technicians can work in research as well as commercial agriculture, horticulture and livestock production and servicing areas.

There are opportunities for Agricultural Technicians to learn on the job and contribute through technical expertise including modern agricultural practices, environmental management, intensive horticulture practices and advanced livestock production including breeding and artificial insemination.

Generally, Agricultural Technicians work in support of and assist Agricultural Scientists or equivalent experts.



## Artificial Insemination Officer

The primary duty of an artificial insemination technician is to inseminate livestock in the hope of successfully impregnating the animals, but they may have many additional related responsibilities. Technicians must carefully monitor the heat cycles of female animals to determine the optimal time to inseminate (based on the animal's ovulation cycle and behaviour).

They also must carefully handle and thaw the straws of frozen semen that have been kept in liquid nitrogen storage. The insemination must be performed with both speed and accuracy to ensure that the animal has the best chance to become pregnant on a single service.

## Supporting material for assessment

When applying for a Skills Assessment, please ensure you submit sufficient evidence supporting your proof of identity, qualification and employment claims. A full list of the documents required can be found on the VETASSESS website under Eligibility Criteria.

