

**Domain****MINERAL PROCESSING****Title:****Handle cyanide solids safely in a  
metallurgical plant****Level: 3****Credits: 7****Purpose**

This unit standard is intended for those who carry out metallurgical processing operations. People holding credit for this unit standard are able to: Plan and prepare to handle cyanide solids; demonstrate knowledge relating to the handling of cyanide solids; conduct pre-operational checks; handle cyanide solids; carry out routine operator maintenance; and complete duties pertaining to the handling of cyanide solids.

**Special Notes**

1. Entry information:

**Prerequisite**

- 1449 - *Comply with health, safety and environmental rules and regulations pertaining to processing operations; or demonstrated equivalent knowledge and skills.*

2. Assessment evidence may be collected from a real workplace or a simulated workplace in which processing operations are carried out.
3. Safe working practices include day-to-day observation of safety policies and procedures and compliance with emergency procedures.
4. Specifications refer to any, or all of the following: manufacturer's specifications and recommendations, and workplace specific requirements.
5. Performance of all elements in this unit standard must comply with relevant regulatory, legislative, workplace requirements and/or manufacturers' specifications.
6. Regulations and legislation, including subsequent amendments, relevant to this unit standard may include but are not limited to the following:
  - Labour Act, No. 11, 2007
  - Mineral Act, No. 33, 1992
  - Mine Health and Safety Regulations, 1999
  - Regulations relating to the Health and Safety of employees at work, 1997 and all industry specific regulations, legislations, code of practice, or code of conduct.

**Quality Assurance Requirements**

This unit standard and others within this subfield may be awarded by institutions which meet the accreditation requirements set by the Namibia Qualifications Authority and the

Namibia Training Authority and which comply with the national assessment and moderation requirements. Details of specific accreditation requirements and the national assessment arrangements are available from the Namibia Qualifications Authority and the Namibia Training Authority. All approved unit standards, qualifications and national assessment arrangements are available on the Namibia Training Authority website [www.nta.com.na](http://www.nta.com.na).

## **Elements and Performance Criteria**

### **Element 1: Plan and prepare to handle cyanide solids**

#### **Performance Criteria**

- 1.1 Work instructions, including plans, specifications, quality requirements and operational details are obtained, explained, clarified and applied to the allocated task.
- 1.2 Safety and security requirements, including personal protective clothing and equipment are obtained from the site safety plan, workplace policies and procedures, explained, and applied to the allocated task.
- 1.3 Equipment, tools, fuel, lubricants, attachments and accessories selected to carry out tasks are checked for consistency with the requirements of the job, their usability and any faults rectified or reported prior to commencement of work.
- 1.4 Environmental protection requirements are identified from the project environmental management plan and applied to the allocated task.
- 1.5 Work area is inspected and prepared according to workplace procedures.

### **Element 2: Demonstrate knowledge relating to the handling of cyanide solids**

#### **Range:**

Emergency procedures must include: basic first-aid treatment of cyanide exposure, entry into confined spaces, cyanide neutralisation, and spillage disposal.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- 2.1 The actions and conditions pertaining to a safe, healthy work environment in the cyanide handling process are described.
- 2.2 The importance of handling cyanide is described in terms of achieving specified production requirements.
- 2.3 Hazards and associated risks are identified through relevant risk assessment procedures.
- 2.4 The communication requirements pertaining to cyanide handling are described.
- 2.5 Corrective actions, in case of sub-standard conditions and problems be encountered, are described.

- 2.6 Emergency procedures to be followed in the event of cyanide spillage and poisoning are explained.
- 2.7 Operating parameters and control methods are explained in terms of operational requirements.
- 2.8 Colour coding and symbolic signs pertaining to cyanide handling are explained in terms of legal and operational requirements.
- 2.9 Security requirements pertaining to cyanide handling are explained in terms of legal and operational requirements.

### **Element 3: Conduct pre-operational checks**

#### **Performance Criteria**

- 3.1 Workplace hazards and associated risks are identified, minimised or eliminated according to workplace procedures and legislative requirements.
- 3.2 The cyanide handling system is examined and substandard conditions are reported to appropriate personnel according to workplace procedures.
- 3.3 Start-up and shutdown procedures are conducted according to manufacturer's specifications.

### **Element 4: Handle cyanide solids**

#### **Performance Criteria**

- 4.1 Workplace hazards and associated risks are identified, minimised or eliminated according to workplace procedures and legislative requirements.
- 4.2 Task-specific personal protective and safety equipment is used according to manufacturer's specifications and workplace procedures.
- 4.3 The cyanide handling process is monitored and controlled according to workplace procedures.
- 4.4 Effective communication ensures safe and optimal handling of cyanide.
- 4.5 Tools and equipment are used according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- 4.6 The handling of cyanide is consistent with environmental policies and other legislations.

### **Element 5: Carry out routine operator maintenance**

#### **Performance Criteria**

- 5.1 Workplace hazards and associated risks are described, identified, minimised or eliminated according to workplace procedures and legislative requirements.

- 5.2 The work area is prepared in readiness for maintenance work to be carried out
- 5.3 Maintenance, replacement or other maintenance is carried out within scope of responsibility according to manufacturer's specifications and workplace procedures.
- 5.4 System is restored to operational status and relevant documentation completed.

**Element 6: Complete duties pertaining to the handling of cyanide solids**

**Range**

Housekeeping may include but is not limited to ensure the work area is ready for next user; remove work materials to designated locations; correctly identify waste and re-usable material; and remove waste and re-usable materials to designated locations.

**Performance Criteria**

- 6.1 Task-specific tools, personal protective and safety equipment, are cleaned, maintained and stored for further use according to workplace procedures.
- 6.2 Good housekeeping practices are maintained according to workplace procedures.
- 6.3 Reporting and recording requirements are met according to workplace procedures.
- 6.4 Work related documents are completed according to job requirements and workplace procedures.

**Registration Data**

<b>Subfield:</b>	Metallurgy
<b>Date first registered:</b>	28 September 2016
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<b>Body responsible for review:</b>	Namibia Training Authority