VETASSESS

Information sheet

Primary Product Inspectors nec

ANZSCO: 311399 | **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.
- 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

Primary Product Inspectors nec inspect animals, plants and agricultural produce and facilities to ensure compliance with government and industry standards with respect to quality, health and licensing. Primary Product Inspectors nec covers Primary Product Inspectors not elsewhere classified in ANZSCO.

Occupations considered suitable under this ANZSCO code:

- Dairy Quality Assurance Officer
- Fruit and Vegetable Inspector

Occupations not considered under this ANZSCO code:

- Agricultural Technician
- Fisheries Officer
- Meat Inspector
- Quarantine Officer

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

Primary Product Inspectors nec 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.

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						
	Post-qualification Pathways						
	Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level		**With highly relevant major field of study**		**Additional highly relevant qualifications**		**Highly relevant employment duration**
1	AQF	+		+	N/A	+	1 YEAR minimum
2	AQF	+	No highly relevant major	+	Minimum AQF Certificate IV level with highly relevant major	+	1 YEAR minimum
3	AQF	+	No highly relevant major	+	No additional highly relevant qualifications	+	2 YEARS minimum
	Pre-qualification Pathway						
	Highly Relevant employment duration						**Minimum comparable Diploma or higher AQF level**
4	3 YEARS minimum + 1 YEAR minimum (Within last 5 years)	+			With or without highly relevant major field of study	+	AQF

Description of Pathways

The information below describes the available pathways for a Skills Assessment under **Group C** . Please note that in order to achieve a successful Skills Assessment Outcome, a suitable assessment for both qualifications and employment is required.

Pathway 1

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 2

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

An additional qualification in a highly relevant field of study at a minimum AQF Certificate IV level is required. Additional qualifications in a highly relevant field of study include those comparable to the AQF Certificate IV.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **one** year of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

For example, an applicant for the occupation Program or Project Administrator completed a non-relevant AQF Diploma qualification in April 2024 and later completed an AQF Certificate IV in Project Management in May 2026. The applicant commenced employment with the organisation in May 2024 and remains employed there.

Under Pathway 2, the applicant satisfies the minimum educational requirement for a Group C occupation through the AQF Diploma qualification. Accordingly, employment is counted from the completion date of the Diploma qualification, meaning employment from May 2024 onwards may be considered toward both the required Qualifying Period (QP) and any remaining eligible period for the points test.

As the later Certificate IV qualification is highly relevant to the occupation, the applicant may access the reduced employment requirement applicable under Pathway 2. In this case, only one year of QP is required, and that employment may be counted from the post-Diploma period rather than from the Certificate IV qualification completion date.

Pathway 3

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher and in a field not highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **two** years of post-qualification employment at an appropriate skill level, undertaken in the last five years,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Pathway 4

This pathway requires a qualification assessed as comparable to the education level of an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Diploma or higher with or without a highly relevant major field of study to the nominated occupation.

Diploma or higher includes AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Graduate Diploma, Master Degree or Doctoral Degree.

In addition, it is essential for applicants to meet the following employment criteria:

- at least **four** years of employment at an appropriate skill level that includes at least **one** year of highly relevant employment within the last five years before applying,
- working 20 hours or more per week, and
- highly relevant to the nominated occupation.

Qualification

This includes qualifications assessed at AQF Advanced Diploma, Associate Degree, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level. Primary Product Inspectors usually have a background in Agriculture, Food Processing Technology, Horticulture or related fields. These studies focus on the process of farming, animal breeding and grazing, producing unprocessed plant and animal products.

Highly relevant major fields of study include:

- Agriculture
- Food processing technology
- Horticulture
- Food technology
- Meat Inspection
- Seafood processing
- Animal and plant biochemistry
- Dairy
- Broadacre production
- Consumer food and health
- Microbiology
- Biotechnology

Employment

Highly relevant tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Inspecting animals, plants and agricultural produce to identify product quality issues, and providing advice to producers
- Auditing and monitoring quality procedures at farms and food handling and processing facilities to ensure compliance with required standards
- Testing samples of produce for quality, size and purity.

Additional tasks may include:

- Ensuring that required standards of hygiene and other food safety elements are observed at storage, processing and packing facilities and in transport vehicles
- Advising primary producers on economic aspects of disease eradication and informing producers and the general public of the health implications of diseases and impurities
- Advising on the identification of pests and diseases and on regulations pertaining to grading, packing and loading of products
- May initiate or assist in legal action to enforce regulations, appear in court to give evidence in cases involving breaches of the regulations (Government regulatory roles)
- Checking and grading produce, such as fruit, vegetables, milk, grains, sugar cane, nuts, pulses and more, during processing and making sure that ingredients used in processing meet government standards of purity and grading.

Employment information

A Primary Product Inspector is often employed by government and industry regulatory authorities. In some cases they may be employed directly within a larger supplier and producer or along the product supply chain. The core function of the role should be in inspecting, assessing and grading produce for government, industry and public health requirements.

Specialisation

Fruit and Vegetable Inspector

The Primary Product Inspector would work closely with the farm hand and/or picker, about what is being done to the product, for example, chemical usage, product handling, essentially where the product has come from, before making an informed decision about whether the product is safe and meets the specific requirements of the buyer and is ready for distribution. If working in Australia, they should have undertaken or at a minimum have strong knowledge of HACCP, Food Standards Codes and/or HARPS and Freshcare requirements.

Specialisation

Dairy Quality Assurance Officer

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), under its Standard 4.2.4, requires all dairy farms to have a documented on-farm food safety program. All dairy manufacturers and processors must also have a documented food safety program.

Dairy farms must implement a HACCP-based Quality Assurance Program to ensure:

- They gain a licence to operate from their State Dairy Food Safety Authority, and
- Their milk is accepted by their manufacturer. Regular auditing ensures dairy farmers assess food safety risks and have strategies in place to deal with the risks (includes full traceability up and down the input chain)

Not Elsewhere Classified (nec)

Some occupations assessed by VETASSESS are listed as ‘nec’ which means ‘not elsewhere classified’.

If you are nominating one of these occupations, you must ensure that your qualifications and employment are highly relevant to one of the occupation titles given in the ANZSCO description for the particular occupation.

Other specific occupation titles which cannot be found elsewhere in ANZSCO will be considered on a case-by-case basis as long as they are relevant to the 'nec' codes. In order to be assessed against an 'nec' code, your occupation would generally be described as non-classified, yet specialised or related to its ANZSCO Unit Group description.

Your employment in these nominated occupations should not better match another ANZSCO code (whether assessed by VETASSESS or not). When considering whether to nominate an 'nec' occupation, you should consider the sub major group description and determine whether your skills best fit this category.

VETASSESS conducts a case-by-case assessment to determine whether the employment can be considered highly relevant to the classification. If your employment is highly relevant to another ANZSCO occupation, that period of employment cannot be assessed suitably against an 'nec' classification, regardless of whether the occupation is available for migration purposes or not.

You should provide a cover letter that justifies the rationale for choosing an 'nec' category.

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. Applicants should provide a cover letter that justifies their rationale for choosing an 'nec' category. While the VETASSESS Skills Assessment for migration purposes is distinct from an assessment for licensing or registration purposes, applicants are advised to provide copies of relevant licences (including from overseas) if held.