

Title	Release a biological agent for weed control		
Level	4	Credits	8

Purpose	This unit standard is for Biosecurity officers working in Local Government. People credited with this unit standard are able to: establish the scope of agent release and source the biological control agent; transport and maintain the biological control agent prior to release; identify the release site and release methodology; carry out the release operation; and monitor the release.
----------------	---

Classification	Compliance and Law Enforcement > Compliance and Regulatory Control
-----------------------	--

Available grade	Achieved
------------------------	----------

Guidance Information

- 1 All performances are to be carried out in accordance with relevant legislation. An indicative list of relevant codes and legislation is held by The Skills Organisation.
- 2 Assessment will be in relation to those laws, regulations, strategies, operational plans, activities, procedures, and policies defined by the compliance and/or regulatory organisation relevant to the performance context.
- 3 Parts of Australian Units of Competency RTD3706A, *Maintain biological cultures* and RTD3707A, *Release biological agents* (www.ntis.gov.au) have been used as source material for the development of this unit standard.
- 4 Definitions
Approved supplier refers to a supplier legally accredited to determine and provide biological control agents for specified release programmes.
Regional Pest Management Strategy refers to the current pest management strategy determined by the applicable regional or unitary authority under the Biosecurity Act 1993.
Organisational procedures refers to an organisation's established procedures which are in accordance with legal requirements and which cover handling and use of biological agents including but not limited to safety, hygiene, transportation and maintenance, monitoring, release, measures for achieving objectives, and recording and reporting.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Establish the scope of agent release and source the biological control agent.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Target plant species is located and identified consistent with the Regional Pest Management Strategy.
- 1.2 Incidence and density of the target population are estimated and recorded in accordance with organisational procedures.
- 1.3 Suitable biological control agent is identified and agreed upon with an approved supplier in accordance with organisational procedures.

Outcome 2

Transport and maintain the biological control agent prior to release.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Microclimate is maintained during transport to base in accordance with approved supplier instructions and organisational procedures.
- 2.2 Agent is maintained in suitable host material and environment in accordance with approved supplier instructions and organisational procedures.

Range host material must be suitable to agent and to target species.
- 2.3 Agent is monitored, observations are recorded, and any abnormalities are reported, in accordance with organisational procedures.

Outcome 3

Identify the release site and release methodology.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Release site is identified in accordance with target species and regional or unitary authority's operational plan
- 3.2 Land occupier cooperation is encouraged and approval obtained in accordance with organisational procedures.

- 3.3 Release methodology is established in accordance with approved supplier instructions and organisational procedures, and release schedule is prepared in accordance with organisational procedures.

Range schedule may address – weather; Regional Pest Management Strategy limitations (e.g. boundary control provisions) and absence of compliance measures; ease of access; guaranteed length of property tenure; agreement of occupier to not damage (eg spray or graze) target species for minimum specified time; lack of intensive property management; site away from public view; history of occupier; risks of flooding, fire, erosion, spraydrift from other weed control operations (e.g. neighbour), or other disturbance; consideration of site for future field days; signage requirements.

Outcome 4

Carry out the release operation.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Release is carried out in accordance with established and scheduled release methodology.
- 4.2 Release is recorded in accordance with organisational procedures.

Outcome 5

Monitor the release site.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Release site is monitored to evaluate effectiveness and spread to target species consistent with the Regional Pest Management Strategy and in accordance with organisational procedures.

This unit standard is expiring. Assessment against the standard must take place by the last date for assessment set out below.

Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	26 April 2005	31 December 2023
Review	2	23 May 2019	31 December 2023

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0046
--	------

This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.