

Review of PMBWELD units of competency for design, welding and installation of plastic pipelines

IBSA Manufacturing has been directed by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) to undertake development and review work for the PMB Plastics, Rubber and Cablemaking Training Package, which includes the PMBWELD coded units of competency, listed below.

IBSA Manufacturing is currently engaging with industry and Registered Training Organisations to confirm industry skills and knowledge requirements, and the extent to which units of competency may need to be updated/changed.

List of current units of competency

Current units are listed in the table below. Click on the links below to view the full details.

Initial analysis suggests that units will need to be updated to better comply with the *Standards for Training Packages*. In particular, there is a need for clearer assessment requirements and better articulation of the amount of practical evidence required to show competency. All changes will be based on industry input.

Unit code	Unit title	Comments
PMBWELD301	Butt weld polyethylene plastic pipelines	Enrolment data suggests this unit used extensively.
PMBWELD302	Electrofusion weld polyethylene pipelines	Enrolment data suggests this unit used extensively.
PMBWELD303	Install polyethylene (non-pressure) drainage pipelines	No enrolments ever recorded.
PMBWELD304	Design polyethylene (non-pressure) drainage pipelines	No enrolments ever recorded.
PMBWELD305	Install polyethylene plastic pressure pipelines	Very low enrolments (e.g. 12 in 2016, prior to that 0 and 1).
PMBWELD306	Design polyethylene plastic pressure pipelines	No enrolments ever recorded.
PMBWELD307	Install high temperature plastic pressure pipelines	No enrolments ever recorded.
PMBWELD308	Install PVC plastic pressure pipelines	Unit is used. Enrolments in 2014/2015 and 2016 were 18, 61 and 62 respectively.
PMBWELD309	Weld plastic using extrusion techniques	Unit is used. Enrolments in 2014/2015 and 2016 were 48, 145 and 134 respectively.
PMBWELD310	Design PVC plastic pressure pipelines	No enrolments ever recorded.
PMBWELD311	Design high temperature plastic pressure pipelines	No enrolments ever recorded.

Key questions for industry

- What job roles perform plastic pipeline design, welding and installation? Are all being identified job roles being trained in these units?
- Besides plastic pipeline design, welding and installation, what other key tasks are workers performing?
- Are workers being appropriately trained to perform plastic pipeline design, welding and installation? If not, why? Eg. Have the skills and knowledge changed over time? If so, how?
- In looking at the units in the above list (using the links), how well do they describe the required skills and knowledge for work? Is there anything missing, and if so, what?
- From an industry perspective, how much evidence would you want to see to know that a person is competent and ready to perform in the workplace (e.g. for welding, would you want to know that they had done this successfully several times, in different types of conditions, using different types of equipment or in response to different types of potential problems?)
- As per the list above, enrolment data indicates that some units have never been used or have very low uptake? What might be the reason for this? Are all the units still needed or could some be deleted?

Please send feedback to Mark Shaddock (mark.shaddock@ibsa.org.au) by **Friday 26 October 2018**.