
Overview

This standard is for archaeological conservators; people who are required to have knowledge of a range of items or specific groups of items in archives or collections, as well as having expert knowledge of the potential conservation problems that may be encountered with such items.

Once a conservation option has been selected it has to be implemented. One type of option is the application of preventive conservation procedures. This involves the specification of an appropriate environment for the protection of the item and advising on how to ensure the environment is protecting the items concerned. The specific complexities of the items must be taken into account during this process. This standard covers specifying a suitable environment for the item, evaluating how well the item is being protected and advising on how this situation can be maintained.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Specify the appropriate environment in which to maintain and protect items

- P1 identify and apply the relevant technical and ethical standards appropriate to your work
- P2 identify the items' appropriate environmental requirements in accordance with the selected conservation option and plan
- P3 monitor the existing environmental conditions in the intended location accurately over a suitable period
- P4 identify as quickly as possible any evidence that the environment is not suitable for the items
- P5 explore and test the application and effect of existing and new materials and procedures, and modifying them if necessary
- P6 assess accurately the resources required to implement specified procedures and pass details to the relevant people
- P7 draw up specifications and procedures to control and monitor the items' environment in consultation with the appropriate people
- P8 determine and implement suitable specifications for protecting items during use, storage, display or transportation
- P9 communicate with building engineers, architects, surveyors and designers of the items' environmental requirements, and establish monitoring procedures
- P10 record and disseminate recommendations and procedures according to requirements

You must be able to:

Monitor, evaluate and advise on the environmental protection of items

- P11 establish schedules and procedures for monitoring and maintain the environmental protection and condition of items, and evaluate their effectiveness
- P12 ensure schedules and procedures for monitoring and maintaining the environment of the items are correctly implemented
- P13 identify as quickly as possible any evidence of instability or change in the items and any other indications that the environment is not suitable, and taking appropriate action
- P14 implement ongoing conservation procedures according to schedule
- P15 take appropriate action when specifications for the environmental protection and condition of items are not being met
- P16 ensure the records of the monitoring process are clear and accurate
- P17 comply at all times with health and safety procedures

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Develop and implement preventive conservation procedures for archaeological items

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 relevant technical and ethical standards
- K2 how to draw up specifications for the control of the item's environment
- K3 how to draw up guidelines and procedures for monitoring the item's environment
- K4 how to select packaging and display materials, and handling procedures
- K5 the equipment that is available to monitor the environment
- K6 how the location's environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- K7 what is in the conservation plan, and the parameters for action
- K8 the indications that an environment is not suitable for the items
- K9 the factors that need to be considered during transit
- K10 who are the appropriate people to inform about the items' environment
- K11 the health and safety implications of the available treatments
- K12 the health and safety procedures for the available treatments
- K13 how the location's environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- K14 the indications that an environment is not suitable for the items
- K15 the action that can be taken if the environment is not suitable for the item
- K16 the implications of an inappropriate environment
- K17 who are the appropriate people to inform of any problems

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