
Overview

This standard is for archaeological conservators or conservation technicians, people who are required to have knowledge of a range of items or specific groups of items and the potential conservation problems that may be encountered by such items.

Once a conservation option has been selected it has to be implemented. One type of option is for the application of preventive care procedures to items. This involves ensuring that the environmental conditions are appropriate for the items concerned and that systems are in place to monitor and maintain the environment of the items.

**Performance
criteria**

You must be able to:

Control the environment to preserve and protect an item

- P1 identify and apply relevant technical and ethical standards appropriate to your work
- P2 identify the item's environmental requirements in accordance with the conservation 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 item
- P5 determine and implement suitable methods to modify the item's environment where necessary
- P6 implement procedures for the handling and physical protection of the item
- P7 record and disseminate descriptions of all actions taken to recover control of the item's environment, making recommendations where necessary
- P8 consult a conservation specialist when further action is required

You must be able to:

Monitor and modify the environment and the condition of an item

- P9 establish suitable procedures for monitoring and maintaining the environment and the condition of the item
- P10 carry out procedures for monitoring and maintaining the environment of the item according to specification
- P11 identify as quickly as possible any evidence of instability or change in the item and any other indications that the environment is not suitable for it, and take appropriate action
- P12 take appropriate action when specifications for the environmental protection and condition of items are not being met
- P13 ensure the records of the monitoring process are clear and accurate

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 the existing recommendations for the item
- K5 the indications that an environment is not suitable for the item
- K6 how the environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- K7 the equipment available to monitor the environment, and how to use it
- K8 who are the appropriate people to inform about the item's environment
- K9 why it is important to keep appropriate records
- K10 what could be considered to be suitable packing, storage and display materials
- K11 the appropriate handling requirements
- K12 the existing recommendations for the item
- K13 how the environment can be accurately monitored, and the principal factors to monitor
- K14 the indications that the environment is not suitable for the item
- K15 what action can be taken if the environment is not suitable for the item
- K16 who are the appropriate people to inform of any problems
- K17 the implications of an inappropriate environment

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Apply preventive care procedures to archaeological items

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