
Overview

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

Once a conservation option has been specified it has to be implemented. One type of option is the application of remedial conservation procedures. This could involve a range of professional interventive procedures depending on the condition of the item, and the type of action being agreed by the owner or keeper. The specific complexities of the items must be taken into account during this. This might also involve the need to explore and test options that have not been used by the candidate or have not been applied to that particular situation before. This standard covers exploring and testing new conservation procedures; minimising deterioration in the item, i.e. stabilising the items condition and applying interventive procedures to conserve the item.

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Develop and implement remedial conservation procedures for archaeological items

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Explore, test and develop conservation procedures to solve specific problems

- P1 identify and apply relevant technical and ethical standards appropriate to your work
- P2 identify clearly the conservation problems to be solved and agree them with all relevant people
- P3 identify and review the effectiveness of existing conservation procedures and materials in the specific situation
- P4 review any relevant sources of information for appropriate solutions and ideas
- P5 modify, test and develop techniques to solve specific problems
- P6 record data generated by the testing of the conservation procedures and materials accurately in the appropriate format
- P7 ensure the information provided to others to support the new procedures is complete and accurate
- P8 accurately assess the resources that are required to implement the new procedures
- P9 carry out risk assessments for all the materials and procedures involved in the selected conservation procedures, and determine whether the procedures are acceptable on health and safety grounds
- P10 comply at all times with the Health and Safety precautions determined by the risk assessments

You must be able to:

Minimise the deterioration of items

- P11 treat the items as specified in the selected conservation plan, without compromising their integrity
- P12 remove, reduce or neutralise potential and active agents of deterioration
- P13 minimise any potential or actual physical weakness, and counter its cause
- P14 minimise further deterioration by the application of the appropriate materials
- P15 evaluate the application and effect of the treatments and modify them as necessary
- P16 evaluate what is required in the future to maintain the condition of the treated items and specify a program of actions
- P17 record the data generated by the treatment procedures and materials accurately and correctly in the appropriate format
- P18 comply at all times with health and safety procedures

You must be able to:

Physically intervene to aid interpretation of items

- P19 treat the items as specified in the selected conservation plan, without compromising their integrity

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- P20 check the professional interventions are designed to enable the items to fulfil their agreed role and use
- P21 remove or reduce material that inhibits interpretation of the items
- P22 add materials which are, wherever possible, reversible, appropriate and identifiable
- P23 evaluate continually the application and effect of the interventions, and modify them as necessary
- P24 evaluate what is required in the future in terms of conservation to maintain the condition of the items and specify a program of actions
- P25 record the data generated by the treatment procedures accurately and correctly in the appropriate format
- P26 comply at all times with health and safety procedures
- P27 communicate with the appropriate people any new information revealed about the item during the above procedures
- P28 ensure that any samples of material removed are recorded in the correct format, and correctly packed

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 apply research methods for developing new techniques, including the use of controls
- K2 record, interpret and apply the results of the testing
- K3 conservation problems which require exploration
- K4 the existing conservation procedures and materials that are available to resolve the problems
- K5 networks, directories, authorisation, channels of communication
- K6 the most relevant sources of information
- K7 relevant technical and ethical standards
- K8 ways of accessing resources
- K9 the health and safety issues and implications of different conservation procedures, and how to comply with appropriate
- K10 how to evaluate the effect of a treatment
- K11 what is in the conservation plan, and the parameters for action
- K12 the agents of deterioration likely to be found in the item
- K13 the weaknesses likely to be found in the item
- K14 how the item's treatment should be monitored and measured
- K15 the sort of data that should be recorded, and how it should be recorded
- K16 the health and safety procedures for the available treatments
- K17 the types of intervention that could be considered unethical and why
- K18 how to ensure that additions to the item can be reversed
- K19 how to evaluate the effect of the treatment
- K20 the item's conservational needs
- K21 the sample's packaging requirements
- K22 future additional information about the item
- K23 what is in the conservation plan
- K24 what material can be removed from the item, and from where on the item
- K25 the methods that should be used for removing or reducing materials and accretions on the item
- K26 how the item's treatment should be monitored
- K27 the sort of data that should be recorded, and how it should be recorded
- K28 the health and safety implications of the available treatments

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