



Careers in manufacturing: laboratory operations

Technician - chemical

This information sheet covers the following occupations within the laboratory operations sector:

- Laboratory technicians
- Chemical technicians.

Laboratory technicians

Laboratory technicians assist engineers, technical officers and other laboratory staff by collecting and preparing samples, carrying out experiments, making measurements with scientific equipment, recording results and presenting results for critical analysis. They play an important role in manufacturing quality control. Laboratory technicians undertake sampling and testing that requires the application of a broad range of technical skills and some scientific knowledge.

Laboratory technicians may:

- collect and classify samples
- perform diagnostic and other scientific tests
- carry out experimental procedures and monitor processes
- perform routine mathematical calculations and prepare graphs
- use computers and computer-interfaced equipment
- carry out routine quality assurance checks on production line samples and materials.

Relevant qualification:

- Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques

Chemical technicians

Chemical technicians perform laboratory tests on organic and inorganic chemicals, analyse test data and carry out technical functions in support of chemists or chemical engineers in a wide variety of areas, such as fuels, agricultural products, food, pharmaceuticals, paints, metals, plastics, textiles, detergents, paper, fertilisers and cosmetics.

Chemical technicians may:

- prepare materials, products and equipment for experiments and surveys
- undertake complex experiments, often following strict testing and analysing procedures
- prepare charts and diagrams and compile data
- assist in assembling equipment for various experiments
- monitor supplies of materials and ensure they are adequate
- assist in preparing technical reports and documents for publication.

Specialisations:

- Chemical instrumentation officer
- Chemical process analyst
- Chemistry laboratory technician
- Dairy laboratory technician
- Petroleum laboratory technician
- Sugar laboratory assistant

Relevant qualification:

- Diploma of Laboratory Technology

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