

Specification of Competency Standards
for the Jewellery Industry
Unit of Competency

Functional Area - Production □

Title	Master the processing techniques for pearl jewellery
Code	108952L3
Range	This unit of competency is applicable to practitioners engaged in the wholesale/retail of pearls in the jewellery industry. Practitioners should master the knowledge of pearls, and be capable of screening and processing the supplied pearls according to their quality requirements independently, as well as stringing them in chains as semi-manufactured products or to reserve for other processing purposes.
Level	3
Credit	9
Competency	Performance Requirements 1. Understand the classification and quality requirements of pearls • Know about pearls and gemmology • Know about the types of pearls and their origin ○ Natural pearl ○ Cultured pearl ▪ Beaded cultured pearls ▪ Cultured seawater pearls ▪ Cultured freshwater pearls ▪ Biwa pearls ▪ Cultured pearls with shells ▪ Mabe pearls ○ Species of cultured pearls ▪ Akoya pearls ▪ Freshwater pearls ▪ South Sea pearls ▪ Tahitian pearls ○ Shapes and colours of pearls ○ Weight measurement of pearls, including: ▪ Kan ▪ Kilogram ▪ Dao ▪ Momme ▪ Hong Kong mace (tsin) ▪ Gram ▪ Grain ○ Know about the grades and prices of pearls • Know about the optimization treatment of pearls ○ Dyeing ○ Irradiation treatment ○ Lustre optimization 2. Process pearl jewellery • Master the grading and screening of pearls ○ Grading ▪ Jewellery grade ▪ Craft grade ○ Colour ○ Lustre

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	○ Shape ○ Diameter ○ Blemish ○ Surface perfection ○ Nacre thickness • Master the use of special pearl sieves to differentiate the sizes of pearls • Master the perforation of pearls • Master the stringing of pearl chains • Master the application of adhesive glue to secure pearls on pearl bases 3. Professionalism • Following the requirements of the organization, code of practice and safety guidelines, carry out pearl jewellery processing with a professional attitude
Assessment Criteria	The integrated outcome requirements of this unit of competency are: • Able to master the screening and classification of pearls; and • Master the processing techniques for pearl jewellery, including the stringing of pearl chains, the setting of pearl bases and the perforation of pearls.
Remark	This unit of competency is written with reference to the following materials. Readers can study the relevant information according to their needs:- • Guobiao standards GB/T18781-2008 (Cultured pearl grading) and • The English-Chinese and Chinese-English Dictionary of Gems and Jewelry by China University of Geosciences Press Co. Ltd.