

Nail Technician

Provincial Occupational Standard 2023

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STRUCTURE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL STANDARD

To facilitate the understanding of the occupation, the work performed by tradespersons is divided into the following categories:

Major Work Activity	the largest division within the occupational standard that is comprised of a distinct set of trade activities
Tasks	distinct actions that describe the activities within a major work activity
Sub-tasks	distinct actions that describe the activities within a task
Key Competencies	activities that a person should be able to do in order to be called 'competent' in the trade

The occupational standard also provides the following information:

Trends	changes identified that impact or will impact the trade including work practices, technological advances, and new materials and equipment
Context	information to clarify the intent and meaning of tasks
Required Knowledge	the elements of knowledge that an individual must acquire to adequately perform a task

The appendices located at the end of the occupational standard are described as follows:

Appendix A – Implements	a non-exhaustive list of implements and equipment used in this trade
Appendix B – Glossary	definitions or explanations of selected technical terms used in the occupational standard
Appendix C – Acronyms	a list of acronyms used in the standard with their full name
Appendix D – Major Work Activity and Task Weighting	the major work activity and task percentages which determine the number of questions for each major work activity and task in the provincial certification exam
Appendix E – Pie Chart	a graph which depicts the percentages of exam questions assigned to major work activities
Appendix F – Task Profile Chart	a chart which outlines the major work activities, tasks and sub-tasks of this occupational standard

OCCUPATIONAL STANDARD

SAFETY

Safe working procedures and conditions, accident prevention and the preservation of health are of primary importance to industry in Manitoba. These responsibilities are shared and require the joint efforts of government, employers and employees. It is imperative that all parties are aware of circumstances and conditions that may lead to injury or harm. Safe learning experiences and work environments can be created by controlling the variables and behaviours that may contribute to accidents or injury.

Safety-conscious attitudes and work practices contribute to a healthy, safe and accident-free work environment. It is imperative to apply and be familiar with workplace health and safety legislation and regulations including Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) and Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Nail Technicians are responsible for ensuring the safety of themselves and others in the practice of infection control and maintaining a safe work environment. They must follow business protocols and jurisdictional regulations. It is critical that Nail Technicians be constantly aware of their surroundings and the hazards they may encounter.

Safety education is an integral part of training. As safety is an imperative part of all trades, it is assumed and therefore it is not included as a qualifier of any activities. However, the technical safety tasks and sub-tasks specific to the trade are included in this occupational standard.

SCOPE OF THE NAIL TECHNICIAN TRADE

Nail Technicians provide treatments to individuals through their professional knowledge and expertise in the services of nails. The scope of Nail Technician includes work involved with hands, feet and nails.

A Nail Technician performs the following tasks:

- Maintains a safe workplace environment
- Performs infection control
- Completes client information
- Performs reception duties
- Performs spa management functions
- Performs consultation and obtains client consent
- Provides post-treatment care
- Uses communication and mentoring techniques
- Performs manicures and pedicures
- Performs artificial nail applications

OCCUPATIONAL OBSERVATIONS

The demand for esthetic services has changed significantly over the past decade. Recent trends in the industry have led to a more diversified trade for Nail Technicians. Increased knowledge is required because of the wide range of products available for specific applications. New products have led to new and revised techniques. This trend has altered the role and skill requirements of Nail Technicians.

There is a need for thorough pre-service and post-service consultations between the Nail Technician and the client. Nail Technicians are expected to retail products for at-home maintenance programs, further expanding the marketing, product knowledge and skills required in the trade.

Nail Technicians are required to follow current health and safety standards and protocols.

MAJOR WORK ACTIVITY A

PERFORMS SAFETY AND INFECTION CONTROL

Trends Growing concerns of the spread of communicable diseases have led to an increased emphasis on safety and sanitation. Disposable equipment and supplies are more widely used for safety and sanitation. There is also an ever-increasing importance placed on the standardization of protocols and procedures related to safety, sterilization and sanitation.

Task A-1Maintains a safe workplace environment.

ContextNail Technicians must ensure that the workplace environment is safe and sanitary at
all times. They must also sterilize implements and dispose of hazardous materials
according to established procedures. They must ensure first aid procedures are
available.

Required Knowledge

A-1.K1	applicable safety and health standards, and provincial and local regulations
A-1.K2	occupational health hazards and methods of prevention
A-1.K3	PPE equipment, SDS and WHMIS
A-1.K4	types of implements and their maintenance procedures
A-1.K5	sharps containers for disposal of sharp-edged objects
A-1.K6	safety practices and regulations for implements and electric tools
A-1.K7	chemicals and their related hazards
A-1.K8	classes of fires and extinguishers
A-1.K9	fire safety procedures
A-1.K10	storage and handling of flammable liquids and materials
A-1.K11	basic first aid procedures

A-1.01 Assesses workplace safety.

Key Competencies

A-1.01.01	identify health and safety hazards
A-1.01.02	abide by applicable provincial and local legislation and regulations

Sub-task

A-1.02 Cares for common implements.

Key Competencies

A-1.02.01	identify types of implements
A-1.02.02	perform equipment maintenance procedures
A-1.02.03	perform disposal of sharps containers according to applicable regulations
A-1.02.04	apply safety practices and regulations for implements
A-1.02.05	apply safety practices and regulations for electric tools
A-1.02.06	apply safety practices and regulations for disposable tools

Sub-task

A-1.03 Handles hazardous materials safely.

A-1.03.01	implement procedures according to SDS and WHMIS
A-1.03.02	execute disposal of PPE
A-1.03.03	apply procedures for disposal of contaminated linens
A-1.03.04	apply procedures for disposal of hazardous materials
A-1.03.05	apply storage procedures of hazardous materials

A-1.04 Performs first aid.

Key Competencies

A-1.04.01	identify location of first aid kit
A-1.04.02	use applicable PPE
A-1.04.03	assess level of risks
A-1.04.04	perform emergency protocols
A-1.04.05	conduct first aid procedures
A-1.04.06	obtain client health information via signed consent form

Task A-2

Performs infection control.

ContextNail Technicians must maintain sanitary procedures for workstations and equipment.
They must follow established procedures for sanitizing and sterilizing implements and
linens. They must maintain a professional appearance and good personal hygiene.

Required Knowledge

A-2.K1	types of medical grade disinfectants
A-2.K2	disinfection procedures for treatment area
A-2.K3	disinfection procedures for equipment
A-2.K4	groups of implements for disposal or sterilization
A-2.K5	decontamination procedures for implements
A-2.K6	use of autoclave
A-2.K7	use of hospital-grade liquid solutions
A-2.K8	use of UV equipment
A-2.K9	spore testing procedure
A-2.K10	storage procedures for sterilized implements
A-2.K11	linen inventory procedure
A-2.K12	use of washer and dryer
A-2.K13	storage procedures for sanitized linens

A-2.01 Sanitizes workstation and equipment.

Key Competencies

A-2.01.01	identify medical grade disinfectants
A-2.01.02	disinfect treatment area
A-2.01.03	disinfect equipment according to manufacturer's specifications
A-2.01.04	disinfect all product containers used

Sub-task

A-2.02 Sanitizes and sterilizes implements.

Key Competencies

A-2.02.01	wash hands before and after touching contaminated implements
A-2.02.02	identify groups of implements for either disposal or sterilization
A-2.02.03	wash and dry implements with antibacterial soap and water
A-2.02.04	use autoclave to sterilize metal implements
A-2.02.05	use hospital-grade liquid solutions or UV equipment to sterilize non-metal implements
A-2.02.06	perform spore testing according to autoclave's manufacturer's specifications
A-2.02.07	store sterilized implements in designated sanitized area

Sub-task

A-2.03 Sanitizes linens.

Key Competencies

A-2.03.01 manage existing stocks to ensure an adequate supply of clean linens

A-2.03.02	use washer and dryer according to manufacturer's specificat	ions

- A-2.03.03 ensure linens are sanitized after each use to avoid contamination
- A-2.03.04 store sanitized linens in designated sanitized area

A-2.04 Practices personal hygiene.

A-2.04.01	wear clean and professional attire
A-2.04.02	maintain personal hygiene and grooming
A-2.04.03	refrain from using scented products
A-2.04.04	wash hands before and after each service

MAJOR WORK ACTIVITY B

EXECUTES BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS

Trends Technology in the Nail Technician trade is used for scheduling, recordkeeping, and bookkeeping. Documentation of the client records is essential in cases of liability and client's confidentiality.

Task B-3Completes client information.

Context Nail Technicians must obtain signed consent. They must maintain an organized and secure filing system and records. They must maintain client confidentiality and ethical behaviour.

Required Knowledge

B-3.K1	FIPPA and PHIA
B-3.K2	computerized reservation and customer profile systems
B-3.K3	procedures to complete consent form
B-3.K4	procedures to complete client record card
B-3.K5	procedures to record services provided and results of treatments
B-3.K6	file keeping procedures
B-3.K7	client confidentiality
B-3.K8	workplace professional ethics
B-3.K9	client and staff diversity

Sub-task

B-3.01 Obtains signed consent for personal and medical information.

Key Competencies

B-3.01.01 record personal and medical information according to FIPPA and PHIA

B-3.01.02	use secure computerized reservation and customer profile systems
B-3.01.03	complete consent form
B-3.01.04	obtain signed consent for personal and medical information, and applicable services
B-3.01.05	confirm changes to personal and medical information for each visit with signed consent

B-3.02 Records treatment history.

Key Competencies

B-3.02.01	complete client record card and obtain signature
B-3.02.02	record services provided
B-3.02.03	record results of treatments

Sub-task

B-3.03	Maintains an organized filing system.
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Key Competencies

B-3.03.01	use a secure system for file keeping according to FIPPA and PHIA

B-3.03.02 review and update files as needed

Sub-task

B-3.04 Practices ethical behaviour.

B-3.04.01	maintain client confidentiality
B-3.04.02	demonstrate professional ethics
B-3.04.03	follow workplace code of ethics, policies and procedures
B-3.04.04	respond to diversity of client and staff needs

Task B-4 Performs reception duties.

Context Nail Technicians must professionally interact with clients and perform reception duties. They must have the knowledge and ability to recommend retail products and services.

Required Knowledge

B-4.K1	reception and telephone etiquette
B-4.K2	intake forms
B-4.K3	scheduling systems
B-4.K4	product and service knowledge
B-4.K5	complaint handling protocols

Sub-task

Key Competencies

B-4.01.01	greet and direct clients
B-4.01.02	provide client with intake forms
B-4.01.03	schedule appointments
B-4.01.04	handle client complaints according to company policies and procedures
B-4.01.05	apply telephone etiquette according to company policies and procedures

Sub-task

B-4.02 Performs retail recommendations.

- B-4.02.01 demonstrate knowledge of services and products
- B-4.02.02 complete sales and service transactions

- B-4.02.03 maintain merchandising display
- B-4.02.04 maintain current retail promotions

Task B-5 Performs spa management functions.

Context Nail Technicians must maintain accurate sales records, working hours and inventory.

Required Knowledge

B-5.K1	basic cash float count
B-5.K2	nail technician sales report
B-5.K3	end-of-day POS reports
B-5.K4	time sheets, and procedures for recording and submitting working hours
B-5.K5	stocking and inventory procedures
B-5.K6	ordering procedures
B-5.K7	sales trends analysis

Sub-task

B-5.01 Records individual sales intake.

Key Competencies

B-5.01.01	maintain cash float
B-5.01.02	obtain individual nail technician sales report
B-5.01.03	perform end-of-day POS reports

Sub-task

B-5.02 Records working hours.

Key Competencies

B-5.02.01 complete time sheets

B-5.02.02 record working hours

B-5.02.03 submit working hours

Sub-task

B-5.03 Maintains inventory control.

B-5.03.01	rotate stocks according to expiry dates
B-5.03.02	maintain accurate inventory numbers
B-5.03.03	report missing or outstanding products
B-5.03.04	check inventory to determine stock
B-5.03.05	determine re-order point, and schedule purchases and deliveries
B-5.03.06	check delivery receipts and verify invoices
B-5.03.07	analyse sales trends

MAJOR WORK ACTIVITY C

PERFORMS COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS

Trends Changes are always occurring with new products and services, and the technologies associated with them. This has led to increased public awareness and demand for these new trends.

Task C-6Performs consultation and obtains client consent.

Context Nail Technicians must maintain a welcoming environment for clients. They must also obtain client-signed consent. They must perform consultation and recommend applicable treatment or service.

Required Knowledge

C-6.K1	types of interpersonal and communication skills
C-6.K2	facility layout/floor plan
C-6.K3	FIPPA and PHIA acts and regulations
C-6.K4	contraindications of service
C-6.K5	medical conditions and side effects, including basic oncology
C-6.K6	allergy testing procedures
C-6.K7	skin and nail conditions, disorders and diseases
C-6.K8	scope of practice
С-6.К9	types of add-on treatment or services

Sub-task

C-6.01 Introduces client to spa.

Key Competencies

C-6.01.01 perform interpersonal skills

- C-6.01.02 perform communication skills
- C-6.01.03 familiarity with facility layout

C-6.02 Obtains signed consent.

Key Competencies

C-6.02.01	interpret FIPPA and PHIA acts and regulations
C-6.02.02	recognize and explain contraindications of service

Sub-task

C-6.03	Performs analysi	s for service re	quested.
C-0.03	r criorins analysi	S IOI SCIVICC IC	questeu

Key Competencies

C-6.03.01	review and discuss signed consent
C-6.03.02	consult and visually examine area of treatment (skin and/or nails)
C-6.03.03	perform allergy test prior to treatment

Sub-task

C-6.04 Recommends treatment or service.

- C-6.04.01 recognize and recommend alternate services within scope of practice
- C-6.04.02 refer client to medical professionals if needed
- C-6.04.03 communicate add-on treatment or services

Task C-7Provides post-treatment care.

Context Nail Technicians must recommend post-care product suggestions and protocols. They must provide recommendations for follow-up treatment.

Required Knowledge

C-7.K1	product knowledge
C-7.K2	post-care protocols
C-7.K3	product use
C-7.K4	timeline of follow-up treatment
С-7.К5	booking procedures

Sub-task

C-7.01	Provides post-treatment care information.

Key Competencies

C-7.01.01	educate client about post-care regimen
C-7.01.02	provide post-care protocols

Sub-task

C-7.02 Provides post-treatment retail recommendation.

- C-7.02.01 educate client on home care product recommendations
- C-7.02.02 educate client on directions for product use

C-7.03 Recommend and book follow-up treatment.

Key Competencies

C-7.03.01	provide recommendation and timeline for follow-up treatment
C-7.03.02	book follow-up treatment

Task C-8 Uses communication and mentoring techniques.

ContextNail Technicians must be able to accurately communicate and actively listen for work
tasks, during meetings, and when working with others. Coaching and mentoring skills
are essential to this trade when training apprentices.

Required Knowledge

C-8.K1	trade terminology
C-8.K2	effective verbal and non-verbal communication
C-8.K3	types of communication and learning styles
C-8.K4	personal responsibilities and attitudes including continuing education for effective work performance
C-8.K5	harassment and discrimination policies
C-8.K6	mentoring techniques and strategies for teaching workplace skills
C-8.K7	techniques for providing feedback
C-8.K8	organizational structure and communication protocols

Sub-task

C-8.01 Uses communication techniques.

C-8.01.01	demonstrate two-way communication practices
C-8.01.02	use active listening practices
C-8.01.03	receive and respond to feedback on work

- C-8.01.04 use questioning to improve communication
- C-8.01.05 participate in safety and information meetings

C-8.02 Uses mentoring techniques.

C-8.02.01	identify and communicate learning objectives
C-8.02.02	demonstrate performance of a skill to an apprentice
C-8.02.03	set up conditions required for an apprentice to practice a skill
C-8.02.04	assess apprentice's ability to perform tasks with increasing independence
C-8.02.05	give supportive and corrective feedback
C-8.02.06	support apprentices in pursuing technical training opportunities
C-8.02.07	support equity group apprentices
C-8.02.08	implement probationary period for apprentices to assess their suitability to the trade

MAJOR WORK ACTIVITY D

PERFORMS NAIL CARE SERVICES

Trends There has been an increase in the variety of products and services available for application techniques. This ongoing trend has led to the development of new equipment, technology and methods.

Task D-9Performs manicures and pedicures.

Context Nail Technicians must follow protocols and procedures when performing manicures and pedicures. They must perform sanitizing procedures and assess nail and skin health.

Required Knowledge

D-9.K1	sanitizing procedures for manicure and pedicure treatment area and equipment
D-9.K2	sterilizing procedures for manicure and pedicure implements
D-9.K3	skin and nail diseases and disorders
D-9.K4	treatment contraindications to medical conditions, medications and products
D-9.K5	nail service protocols and procedures
D-9.K6	product specifications and manufacturer's specifications
D-9.K7	nail shapes and anatomy
D-9.K8	types of filing implements and equipment
D-9.K9	various massage techniques
D-9.K10	gel/polish application and curing

Sub-task

D-9.01 Assesses nail and skin health.

Key Competencies

D-9.01.01 sanitize hands, apply gloves and wear masks

D-9.01.02	sanitize client's hands and/or feet
D-9.01.03	examine client's hands and/or feet for diseases and disorders
D-9.01.04	examine client's hands and/or feet for visible contraindications
D-9.01.05	determine if service is appropriate

D-9.02 Prepares nails.

Key Competencies

D-9.02.01	select the desired colour, method and product of application
D-9.02.02	remove nail enamel and nail embellishments
D-9.02.03	return nail to natural form

Sub-task

Key Competencies

D-9.03.01	consult with client and recommend nail shape
D-9.03.02	cut and file nails to desired shape uniformly

Sub-task

D-9.04 Soaks and conditions cuticles.

- D-9.04.01 determine cuticle softening method
- D-9.04.02 determine pterygium removal method
- D-9.04.03 determine and use equipment
- D-9.04.04 treat cuticles

Sub-task		
D-9.05	Repairs natural nails.	
Key Competencies		
D-9.05.01	select nail repair method, product and equipment	
D-9.05.02	perform the repair	
Sub-task		
Sub-task D-9.06	Reduces calluses.	
D-9.06		
D-9.06 Key Competenci	es	

D-9.07 Massages limbs.

- D-9.07.01 select and apply massage products
- D-9.07.02 apply massage techniques

D-9.08 Applies nail enamel.

Key Competencies

D-9.08.01	dehydrate and prepare nails
D-9.08.02	apply gel/polish according to manufacturer's specifications
D-9.08.03	remove polish from skin and under nail

Task D-10Performs artificial nail applications.

ContextNail Technicians must perform sanitizing procedures and assess nail and skin health.
They must prepare, repair and execute artificial nail applications according to
manufacturer's specifications.

Required Knowledge

D-10.K1	sanitizing procedures for artificial nail treatment area and equipment/implements
D-10.K2	skin and nail diseases and disorders
D-10.K3	treatment contraindications to medical conditions, medications and products
D-10.K4	nail service protocols and procedures
D-10.K5	product specifications and manufacturer's specifications
D-10.K6	nail shapes and anatomy
D-10.K7	types of filing implements and equipment
D-10.K8	various massage techniques
D-10.K9	gel/polish application and curing

Sub-task

D-10.01 Assesses nail and skin health.

Key Competencies

D-10.01.01 sanitize hands, apply gloves and wear masks

sanitize client's hands and/or feet
examine client's hands and/or feet for diseases and disorders
examine client's hands and/or feet for visible contraindications
determine if service is appropriate

D-10.02 Prepares for artificial nail application.

Key Competencies

D-10.02.01	select the desired colour, method and product of application
D-10.02.02	remove nail enamel and embellishments
D-10.02.03	prepare and dehydrate nail surface according to manufacturer's specifications

Sub-task

D-10.03 Executes and repairs artificial nail applications.

D-10.03.01	use desired products according to manufacturer's specifications
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- D-10.03.02 use implements and tools according to proper techniques
- D-10.03.03 use equipment according to manufacturer's specifications
- D-10.03.04 shape artificial nails to client's desire
- D-10.03.05 apply gel/polish according to manufacturer's specifications

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

IMPLEMENTS

acrylic nail brush adhesive air brush nail art supplies alcohol applicator/spray bottle artificial nail form artificial nail tip autoclave autoclave disposable bags blanket booking system broom bucket buffer calculator cash drawer or register client attire (wrap, gown, robe, slippers) client record coat racks/hooks computer and software cosmetic brush/applicator cotton cuticle nipper cuticle scissors dappen dish disposable cuticle stone disposable plastic foot bath liner disposable plastic paraffin bag disposable undergarment dryer (clothes) dustpan electric hand and foot mitts electric nail file and bit emery board (disposable) examination sheet eye pads eyebrow brush eyewash station facial bed facial tissues finger cots

first aid kit foil gauze gel nail brush gloves hand mirrors head band hot oil warmer hot towel cabby ingrown file laundry basket linens magnifying lamp manicure cart manicure finger bowl manicure pillow manicure scissors manicure/pedicure lamp manicure/pedicure table massage tools measuring cups measuring cups and spray bottles medical face mask metal curette metal cuticle pusher metal excavator metal nail clipper metal nail file metal or disposable foot file metal tip cutter mirrors mop nail art brush and embellishment nail brush nail tip organizer box nail wrap (silk or fibreglass) notebook oil heater paper tissue paraffin pedicure cart pedicure client chair

pedicure foot bath pedicure foot rest pedicure slippers pedicure stool pedicure toe separators plastic film plastic sheet plastic, metal or glass bowl policy manual polymer and monomer dish with lid product scale protective cap recycling container (biohazard) retail display shelves/cabinets safety glasses sanitizing jar scissors SDS binder sharps container sheet smock/salon gown solvent pumps spatula

sponge spore testing kit sterilizer jar stir stick suction dust fan swivel chair telephone/answering machine terry cloth booties and mitts thermo bath timer towel (terry, paper) treatment mitt tweezers UV and/or LED lamp UV sanitizer vacuum cleaner washing machine waste can water bowl wet sanitizer WHMIS binder wooden stick (disposable) wooden wax applicator

APPENDIX B

GLOSSARY

customer profile	includes personal information	
keratinized proximal nail fold	non-living cuticles; dead skin	
linen	includes towels, bedding, robes, client's attire	
massage techniques	includes relaxation	
nail embellishments	includes gel polish, nail design, artificial nails	
pterygium	an abnormality of the nail unit; it refers to a wing-shaped cutaneous fold arising from the proximal nail fold that fuses with the nail matrix and then the nail bed	
spa	a commercial establishment offering wellness and beauty treatments through the means of using professional procedures, protocols and equipment	

APPENDIX C

ACRONYMS

- **FIPPA** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- LED light emitting diode
- PHIA The Personal Health Information Act
- **POS** point of sale or point of purchase
- PPE personal protective equipment
- **SDS** safety data sheet
- UV ultraviolet
- WHMIS Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

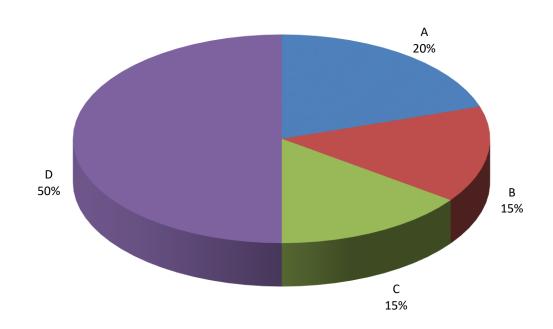
APPENDIX D

MAJOR WORK ACTIVITY (MWA) AND TASK WEIGHTING

MWA A	PERFORMS SAFETY AND INFECTION CONTROL	20%	
Task A-1	Maintains a safe workplace environment.	8%	%
Task A-2	Performs infection control.	129	%
MWA B	EXECUTES BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS	15%	
Task B-3	Completes client information.	49	%
Task B-4	Performs reception duties.	49	%
Task B-5	Performs spa management functions.	79	%
MWA C	PERFORMS COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS	15%	
MWA C Task C-6	PERFORMS COMMON OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS Performs consultation and obtains client consent.	15% 69	%
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Task C-6	Performs consultation and obtains client consent.	6%	%
Task C-6 Task C-7	Performs consultation and obtains client consent. Provides post-treatment care.	69 39	%
Task C-6 Task C-7 Task C-8	Performs consultation and obtains client consent. Provides post-treatment care. Uses communication and mentoring techniques.	69 39 69	%

APPENDIX E

PIE CHART*



TITLES OF MAJOR WORK ACTIVITIES (MWA)

MWA A	Performs Safety and Infection Control	MWA C	Performs Common Occupational Skills
MWA B	Executes Business Fundamentals	MWA D	Performs Nail Care Services

*Average percentage of the total number of questions on a provincial examination, assigned to assess each major work activity of the occupational standard, as derived from the collective input from workers within the occupation. Provincial certification examinations typically have from 100 to 150 multiplechoice questions.

APPENDIX F

TASK PROFILE CHART – Nail Technician

