
Overview

This standard describes your role in stalking and culling deer. It relates to the work activities that you undertake to control deer populations using a firearm. This standard is designed to support those who control deer populations using firearms, either in an employed or recreational capacity.

You will be able to:

1. prepare for a stalk
2. identify individual and groups of deer
3. approach deer close enough to ensure a humane kill or effectively use a high seat
4. shoot deer
5. locate the shot deer and ensure the animal is dead

This unit contains the following elements:

6. Stalk deer
7. Cull deer

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Stalk deer

- P1 carry out work safely in line with health and safety requirements
- P2 identify the cull required
- P3 select firearm and ammunition to meet requirements of planned cull
- P4 prepare **tools, equipment** and firearm into a safe condition suitable for culling activities
- P5 zero firearm for accuracy
- P6 demonstrate accuracy in the use of the firearm from appropriate firing positions
- P7 **locate** and approach deer to a distance where a safe, effective, humane and hygienic shot can be taken, taking account of natural **features** of the location
- P8 **select** individual deer to meet cull requirements

You must be able to:

Cull deer

- P9 carry out work safely in line with health and safety requirements
- P10 handle firearm safely and effectively according to industry codes of practice
- P11 shoot deer safely, humanely and hygienically according to the **features** of the location and legal requirements
- P12 observe reaction of deer to the shot to determine its **condition**
- P13 approach shot deer safely according to its presumed condition
- P14 **locate** and confirm **condition** of shot deer
- P15 dispatch wounded deer humanely
- P16 confirm the status of deer against cull requirements
- P17 clean and store firearms and ammunition after use in accordance with relevant legislation

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Stalk deer

- K1 the reasons for culling deer as part of deer management
- K2 the legal restrictions controlling the use of firearms
- K3 the legal requirements controlling the culling of different deer species
- K4 industry codes of practice for stalking
- K5 deer species identification and classification for age, sex and condition
- K6 normal anatomy and physiology of deer
- K7 normal behaviour of deer including signs that indicate ill health
- K8 potential causes of environmental contamination that can impact on the quality of game meat including the factors that can affect human health after consumption
- K9 how weather conditions can affect the stalk
- K10 how to use habitat and terrain to assist the stalk
- K11 the different firearms which can be used on a cull
- K12 how and why it is important to zero rifles
- K13 the required range that will ensure a safe and humane kill
- K14 methods of locating and approaching deer
- K15 how to select the individual deer to be culled
- K16 the use of high seats as an alternative form of stalking including how to climb quietly and safely
- K17 the health and safety requirements associated with stalking including the dangers associated with lone working

You need to know and understand:

Cull deer

- K18 the legal restrictions controlling the ownership of firearms
- K19 the legal restrictions controlling the culling of different deer species
- K20 industry codes of practice for culling
- K21 the required range and bullet placement that will ensure a safe, humane and hygienic kill
- K22 deer species identification and classification for age, sex, condition
- K23 the anatomy and physiology of the deer
- K24 common deer diseases including those which are notifiable
- K25 how to make a safe shot on flat, undulating, hilly, mountainous, wooded and open land
- K26 how the time of day can influence the cull
- K27 how supports can be used to assist the accuracy of shooting
- K28 how to approach shot deer
- K29 the reaction of deer to being shot in different parts of the body
- K30 how weather conditions can affect deer culling
- K31 signs which indicate strike
- K32 how to locate shot deer including the use of dogs

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- K33 how to confirm the condition of a shot deer
- K34 methods used to humanely dispatch wounded deer
- K35 the health and safety requirements associated with deer culling
- K36 other relevant wildlife and environmental legislation that impacts on deer culling

Additional Information

Scope/range

1. This standard related to the following applications or context:
 - 1.1. prepare tools and equipment:
 - 1.2. binoculars
 - 1.3. personal safety equipment
 - 1.4. knife
 - 1.5. communication equipment

2. Select individual deer by
 - 2.1. species
 - 2.2. sex
 - 2.3. age class
 - 2.4. behaviour
 - 2.5. safe extraction
 - 2.6. welfare

3. Locate and approach deer in locations which comprise two of the following features
 - 3.1. wooded
 - 3.2. open
 - 3.3. flat
 - 3.4. undulating
 - 3.5. hilly
 - 3.6. mountainous

4. Locate deer using:
 - 4.1. optical aids
 - 4.2. senses
 - 4.3. local knowledge

5. Confirm the following conditions in deer:
 - 5.1. wounded
 - 5.2. dead

6. Shoot deer in locations which comprise two of the following features:
 - 6.1. wooded
 - 6.2. open
 - 6.3. flat
 - 6.4. undulating
 - 6.5. hilly
 - 6.6. mountainous

7. Locate deer using:
 - 7.1. optical aids
 - 7.2. signs
 - 7.3. with dogs

Glossary

For you to fully understand the content of the standard, and the activities it describes, it is important that you are able to understand the terms used. The definitions below should help you with this.

Cull

Select and kill surplus animals

Zero

Adjust firearm for accuracy

Anatomy

Body structure of animals

Physiology

Function of living organisms and their body parts

Hygienic kills

Shot locations that kill and avoid contamination from gut contents

Humane kills

Compassionate killing method with minimal stress and pain being caused

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