

LANAgM25 – SQA Unit Code H58J 04

Plan and manage the harvesting of crops and post harvest operations



Overview

This standard covers the management of harvesting and post harvest operations for crops including grass, arable crops, vegetables, herbs, flowers or fruit. Post harvest activities could include selection, cleaning, drying, pre-storage treatments, grading, quality control, packing and labelling. The type of activities will depend on the crop, destination and market/customer requirements.

Processing and packaging of food crops is covered in standards developed by Improve, the Sector Skills Council for the Food and Drink Manufacturing Industry in the UK.

This standard is suitable for anyone with responsibility for the planning and management of harvesting and post harvest operations.

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 identify destination and market/customer requirements of the crop
 - P2 ensure sufficient resources (equipment, staffing, etc.) are available for harvesting and post harvest activities
 - P3 plan and schedule the harvest activity according to market/customer requirements
 - P4 manage harvesting of the crop to ensure it is carried out to meet market/customer requirements
 - P5 monitor the harvesting process and adapt plans accordingly (changing conditions, weather, market requirements, etc.)
 - P6 manage the transportation of the crop from the field
 - P7 manage post harvest activities to meet storage or market/customer needs
 - P8 manage all activities to ensure they meet the requirements for quality assurance
 - P9 establish measures to maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security and ensure they are maintained
 - P10 establish measures for the recycling or disposal of waste in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
 - P11 ensure working methods promote health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice
 - P12 ensure appropriate records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the application of appropriate harvesting standards
- K2 how to develop a management plan for harvesting and post harvest activities
- K3 how the destination and market/customer requirements of the crop impact on the harvesting and post harvesting activities
- K4 how the needs of crops differ in terms of harvesting, transport and post harvest activities
- K5 how market/customer requirements determine the methods of moving and transporting crops
- K6 likely causes of deviations from plans and their impact on the harvesting and post harvest process
- K7 requirements for quality assurance
- K8 methods of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the reasons why it is important
- K9 the legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transport, storage and disposal of waste
- K10 the opportunities for recycling e.g. water, plant material
- K11 your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety and food hygiene legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K12 appropriate records to be kept and how long they should be retained

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Glossary

Crops could include:

- root crops
- grass
- arable crops
- vegetables
- herbs
- flowers
- fruit

Post harvest activities could include:

- selection
- cleaning
- drying
- pre-storage treatments
- grading
- quality control
- packing
- labelling

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Developed by Lantra

Version number 2.0

Date approved January 2013

Indicative review date January 2018

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation Lantra

Original URN LANAgM31

Relevant occupations Farmer; Farm Manager; Nursery worker;

Suite Agricultural Management

Key words crops; plants; harvest; post harvest