



## National Unit Specification: general information

**UNIT** Using Machinery to Excavate Materials: An Introduction  
(SCQF level 5)

**CODE** F6RG 11

### SUMMARY

This Unit provides an introduction to carrying out basic excavation procedures within a construction environment. It will develop the candidate's understanding and practical skills in using machinery to excavate materials. On completion of this Unit, candidates will be able to excavate materials safely from a designated area, having correctly interpreted work specifications and/or drawings. This will include developing an understanding of the components and controls of the machinery selected for use, and knowledge of how to carry out pre-operational safety checks of both the machinery and work area. This Unit is suitable for candidates working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in the Construction Operative and Specialist suite.

### OUTCOMES

- 1 Establish correct machinery required for excavating materials according to the work specification.
- 2 Conduct pre-operational checks of machinery and the work area to prepare for excavation work.
- 3 Excavate materials safely.

### RECOMMENDED ENTRY

While entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, candidates undertaking a National Progression Award at SCQF level 5, as part of a Modern Apprenticeship, must meet the necessary criteria which includes being employed in the relevant industry.

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#### Administrative Information

**Superclass:** TK

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## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

**UNIT**        Using Machinery to Excavate Materials – An Introduction  
(SCQF level 5)

### **CREDIT VALUE**

2 credits at SCQF level 5 (12 SCQF credit points at level 5\*).

*\*SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

### **CORE SKILLS**

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills in this Unit.

This Unit provides opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of the following Core Skills:

- ◆ *Numeracy* (SCQF level 3)
- ◆ *Problem Solving* (SCQF level 3)
- ◆ *Working with Others* (SCQF level 3)
- ◆ *Communication* (SCQF level 3)

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards**

### **UNIT        Using Machinery to Excavate Materials — An Introduction (SCQF level 5)**

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit Specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

#### **OUTCOME 1**

Establish correct machinery required for excavating materials according to the work specification.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Interpret accurately the drawings and/or work specification for the task.
- (b) Select the correct machinery to use for the task.
- (c) Identify components and controls of machinery selected.
- (d) Select appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the specified task, in accordance with organisational requirements.

#### **OUTCOME 2**

Conduct pre-operational checks of machinery and the work area to prepare for excavation work.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify any hazards, including underground and overhead utilities apparatus to avoid within the work area.
- (b) Inspect machinery and confirm it is safe for operational use.
- (c) Measure the area to be excavated correctly.
- (d) Mark out the area to be excavated according to the specification.

#### **OUTCOME 3**

Excavate materials safely.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Operate machinery in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines and the operator's handbook.
- (b) Excavate materials safely, meeting the work specification.
- (c) Place excavated materials in the designated work area or transport vehicle.
- (d) Park, shut down and secure machinery on completion.
- (e) Comply with all current workplace safety and legislative requirements.
- (f) Dispose of waste in accordance with legislative requirements.

## **National Unit Specification: statement of standards (cont)**

### **UNIT        Using Machinery to Excavate Materials — An Introduction (SCQF level 5)**

#### **EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Candidates are required to produce evidence to confirm that they have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria outlined in this Unit.

Performance evidence is required to demonstrate the candidate has achieved the standard specified in the Outcomes and Performance Criteria for Outcomes 1, 2 and 3. Performance evidence must be supplemented with an assessor observation/operational checklist and produced at an appropriate interval in training, under supervised conditions, once the candidate has developed the necessary skills and knowledge required to carry out the work.

Performance evidence should be demonstrated by the candidate using one of the following items of machinery:

- ◆ Dragline
- ◆ Excavator 180° crawler and wheeled (below or above 5 tonne)
- ◆ Crawler tractor/dozer
- ◆ Excavator 360° below 10 tonne (tracked or wheeled)
- ◆ Excavator 360° above 10 tonne (tracked or wheeled)

The candidate should be required to use the correct terminology at all times when identifying components and controls of machinery, and carrying out any practical assignments (Outcomes 1, 2 and 3).

As part of the assessment for this Unit, the candidate will also submit written product evidence such as a works checklist or completed risk assessment form. Oral evidence of knowledge and understanding may be demonstrated by the candidate during practical assignments set for all Outcomes and noted at the time by the observer.

## National Unit Specification: support notes

### UNIT Using Machinery to Excavate Materials — An Introduction (SCQF level 5)

This part of the Unit Specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time length allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 guided learning hours.

#### GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENT AND CONTEXT FOR THIS UNIT

The Outcomes and Performance Criteria for this Unit can be demonstrated by the candidate using any of the following items of machinery:

- ◆ Dragline
- ◆ Excavator 180° crawler and wheeled (below or above 5 tonne)
- ◆ Crawler tractor/dozer
- ◆ Excavator 360° below 10 tonne (tracked or wheeled)
- ◆ Excavator 360° above 10 tonne (tracked or wheeled)

The content and context of this Unit has been set at an introductory level so that the candidate can develop a basic knowledge and ability in excavating materials within a construction environment.

Health and Safety are vital to working practices within the construction industry and therefore, emphasis will be placed wherever appropriate during the delivery of this Unit on the correct application of Health and Safety principles and processes, in accordance with current codes of practice and legislation.

#### GUIDANCE ON LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACHES FOR THIS UNIT

These notes are for guidance purposes only, but are not to be considered as complete guidance to learning and teaching approaches.

Opportunities for integrated delivery of this Unit will be possible with all mandatory Units: *Prepare Machinery for Operational Performance*, *Construction Safety Practices: An Introduction*, and *Efficient Construction Practices: An Introduction*.

The introductory training for this Unit should take place in a separate training area independent of the productive work environment and using dedicated equipment and resources. This should cover underpinning principles before any practical application of knowledge is carried out by candidates.

Delivery of this Unit will be focused on enabling candidates to develop the knowledge required for excavating materials safely before they are given the opportunity to do so within the workplace environment. This will include ensuring candidates learn about the different components and controls of the machinery, using the correct terminology and understanding the necessary procedures for checking and configuring machinery before any excavation work is carried out (eg setting the correct driving position). Emphasis will also be placed on the importance of candidates accurately understanding and interpreting the information provided within work specifications and drawings.

## National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)

### UNIT Using Machinery to Excavate Materials — An Introduction (SCQF level 5)

During delivery of the practical components of this Unit, candidates should understand the importance of ensuring good visibility at all times when manoeuvring machinery and that reversing should only be undertaken under the guidance of a nominated vehicle marshal on site. Candidates should know how to adhere to relevant Health and Safety regulations and legislation relating both to working practices within the construction environment, as well as those specific to any practical task they are requested to carry out (such as emphasising the importance of selecting and using the correct PPE at all times).

E-learning approaches may be appropriate to help tailor delivery to suit the individual needs or learning styles of candidates. This might include, for example, encouraging learners to use electronic resources to conduct research into a specific knowledge area.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORE SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Candidates will be need to apply the Core Skill of *Numeracy* (SCQF level 3) when interpreting the measurements and other information provided in the work drawings and specification, as well as when calculating and marking out the excavation to be performed (Outcomes 1 and 2).

The opportunity for the Core Skill *Working with Others* (SCQF level 3) will be provided as candidates check and inspect machinery for safe use, as well as ensuring the safety of others as they comply with codes of practice and working regulations (al Outcomes). Throughout this Unit, candidates will be expected to develop the Core Skill of *Communication* (SCQF level 3) within the work environment, for example to inform others of any safety considerations, using the correct terminology and a tone appropriate to their audience. In addition, assessment processes may enable candidates the opportunity to develop their Written Communication skills.

The interpretation of work specifications and drawings will also require candidates to think critically, plan and organise the task accordingly (Outcome 1) — key aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* (SCQF level 3).

#### GUIDANCE ON APPROACHES TO ASSESSMENT FOR THIS UNIT

Centres may use the Instruments of Assessment they consider to be most appropriate, and the following notes are given as guidance only.

Assessment may be integrated with all mandatory Units: *Prepare Machinery for Operational Performance*, *Construction Safety Practices: An Introduction*, and *Efficient Construction Practices: An Introduction*.

Underpinning knowledge of excavating materials should be assessed before any practical assignments are carried out by candidates. This will include assessment of a candidate's ability to select the machinery for a specified task. Assessment of practical performance should take place under supervised conditions and confirm a candidate's ability to carry out basic excavation procedures using the machinery correctly and safely, whilst adhering to Health and Safety regulations and legislation.

## **National Unit Specification: support notes (cont)**

### **UNIT        Using Machinery to Excavate Materials — An Introduction (SCQF level 5)**

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 may be assessed by centres setting candidates a series of appropriate practical assignments carried out under supervised conditions and recorded in an assessor observation/operational checklist. Practical assignments undertaken by a candidate will be assessed according to their ability to carry out the task safely, using appropriate machinery according to manufacturer's guidelines.

Adherence to appropriate working regulations and Health and Safety procedures will be observed during the practical exercise carried out by the candidate towards all Outcomes.

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

### **DISABLED CANDIDATES AND/OR THOSE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)