



## **National Unit specification: general information**

**Unit title:** Search for Underground Services (SCQF level 5)

**Unit code:** H0SV 11

**Superclass:** TK

**Publication date:** March 2012

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

## **Summary**

This Unit covers essential knowledge and practical experience relating to searching for underground apparatus in the construction environment. The Unit is suitable for candidates who have had little or no experience to date in the construction environment and who want to gain and apply knowledge and understanding of searching for underground services in the workplace environment. This Unit is suitable for candidates working towards a Modern Apprenticeship in the Construction Operative and Specialist suite.

## **Outcomes**

- 1 Explain how to obtain service drawings and identify information they provide.
- 2 Prepare to carry out proper search procedures at a given location.
- 3 Search for the location and avoidance of underground service apparatus.

## **Recommended entry**

Entry is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates undertaking this Unit in a Group Award (NPA) as part of a Modern Apprenticeship (MA) must meet the requirements of the MA which include being employed in the relevant construction industry.

## General information (cont)

**Unit title:** Search for Underground Services (SCQF Level 5)

### Credit points and level

0.5 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (3 SCQF credit points at SCQF 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

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete Core Skill	None
Core Skill component	Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

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

### **Unit title: Search for Underground Services (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**

Explain how to obtain service drawings and identify information they provide.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Explain procedures for obtaining services drawings for the work area from public service providers.
- (b) Identify the work area from the plans and drawings provided.
- (c) Identify various public utility services from the plans and drawings provided.
- (d) Identify colour coded drawing standards used by the highways industry and public utilities.

#### **Outcome 2**

Prepare to carry out proper search procedures at a given location.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Select and test locating equipment including electronic instruments.
- (b) Identify statutory requirements and safety notices and warning signs.
- (c) Mark off the works area to be tested from the drawings or plans provided.

#### **Outcome 3**

Search for the location and avoidance of underground service apparatus.

##### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Using underground location equipment search the given location.
- (b) Confirm the type of service and structures located and any natural environment encountered.
- (c) Record services identified and inform the relevant person/s of the service locations.
- (d) Mark the area searched and the location of services identified.

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

**Unit title:** Search for Underground Services (SCQF level 5)

### **Evidence Requirements for this Unit**

Evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved this Unit to the standard specified in the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. Candidate training and assessment should take place in as realistic an environment as possible to that of a live working site.

Performance and knowledge evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved the standard specified in the Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Performance and knowledge evidence must be produced at an appropriate point in training under supervised conditions once the candidate has developed the necessary skills and knowledge required to carry out the assessment. This evidence must be supplemented with a completed assessor observational/operational checklist.

When carrying out search candidates must search for and identify all of the following:

- ◆ Gas
- ◆ Electric
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Sewage services, and
- ◆ Manholes
- ◆ Inspection chambers, and
- ◆ Joint/junction boxes structures

Candidates must 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).

As part of the assessment for this Unit, the candidate will also produce evidence of a method statement and a completed risk assessment for a specified training activity. Oral or written evidence of knowledge and understanding may be demonstrated by the candidate during practical assignments set for all Outcomes and Performance Criteria and noted at the time by the training assessor.

## **National Unit specification: support notes**

**Unit title:** Search for Underground Services (SCQF level 5)

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

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 20 hours.

### **Guidance on the content and context for this Unit**

The Outcomes and Performance Criteria for this Unit must be demonstrated by the candidate when searching:

- ◆ Gas
- ◆ Electric
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Sewage services, and
- ◆ Manholes
- ◆ Inspection chambers, and
- ◆ Joint/junction boxes structures

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 location of underground services 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, and are not to be considered as a complete training package for centres to follow.

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 theoretical and practical principles before any practical application of knowledge is carried out by candidates.

Delivery of this Unit will be focussed on enabling candidates to develop the knowledge required for searching for underground services safely before they are given the opportunity to do so within the workplace environment. Candidates should learn and be encouraged to communicate the theories and principles behind good searching techniques. Delivery of this Unit should also ensure candidates learn about the different types of underground services, using the correct terminology and understanding the correct tools, equipment and materials to be used for specified systems, before any practical work takes place. 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 title: Search for Underground Services (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 operating tools and machinery.

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 integrated delivery of the Core Skills and knowledge developed in other Units may be possible within the practical activities in this Unit.

### **Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit**

Centres may use the method of assessment which they consider to be most appropriate but are encouraged to use the Training Assessment Programme (TAP) developed centrally by SQA. It is expected that candidates will have to demonstrate current knowledge and understanding of safe working practice and risk assessment methods, etc prior to being set the assessment tasks.

Knowledge and understanding of the processes involved in searching for underground services should be assessed before any practical assignments are carried out by candidates. This will include assessment of a candidate's ability to prepare the work area for searching for underground services.

Practical assignments should be carried out under supervised conditions and recorded in an assessor observation/operational checklist. Assessments should confirm that a candidate has the ability to safely search for underground services using designated machinery or equipment correctly and safely, whilst adhering to current statutory Health and Safety regulations and legislation.

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

Detailed assessment material for this Unit will be found in the relevant Training and Assessment Programme (TAP). Centres may use the instruments of assessment which they consider to be most appropriate but are advised to use the TAP which has been developed centrally by SQA. Any other instruments of assessment used must be comparable to the TAP and have been prior verified.

## National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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### Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

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)*.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

Candidates will apply the Core Skill of *Numeracy* (SCQF level 3) when stating how to select and test locating equipment including electronic instruments. Stating procedures for obtaining services drawings for the work area from public service providers will require candidate to think critically, plan and organise the task accordingly – key aspects of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving*.

The opportunity for the Core Skill *Working with Others* (SCQF level 3) will be provided as candidates ensure the safety of others as they comply with codes of practice and working regulations. 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 the workplace environment. In addition, assessment processes may enable candidates the opportunity to develop their written communication skills.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

### 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)

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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