

ASTC221 (SQA Unit Code - F4R5 04)

Use a water-fed pole system to clean windows and facades



Overview

This unit is about cleaning windows, glass, laminates, facade surfaces and other highly polished surfaces. These could also be other glass surfaces, frameworks, curtain walling, fascias, guttering or decorative cladding.

When using water-fed poles it is important to assess the risks to yourself and others. You must ensure that appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and high visibility clothing is used and operate equipment safely minimising the risk to yourself and others.

This unit consists of three elements:

1. Prepare to operate water-fed pole systems
2. Operate water-fed pole systems
3. Maintain water-fed pole systems

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Performance criteria

Prepare to operate water-fed pole systems

You must be able to:

- P1 carry out a risk assessment, where appropriate
- P2 take precautions to ensure that the vehicle carrying the cleaning systems is not overloaded
- P3 select and display the appropriate signage before commencing cleaning
- P4 check that the appropriate high visibility clothing and Personal Protective equipment (PPE) is available for use and worn when completing the cleaning
- P5 take appropriate measures to reduce risks associated with the operation of a water-fed pole prior to use

Operate water-fed pole systems

You must be able to:

- P6 check and inspect equipment for defects or damage and take the appropriate action before use
- P7 ensure that an annual inspection of the equipment is conducted
- P8 employ the recognised manual handling techniques when using backpack sprayers
- P9 select a pole that does not over reach the surface to be cleaned
- P10 before you start ensure the composition of the pole is suitable for site conditions
- P11 before lifting single-handedly, ensure portable systems are drained of water
- P12 if working alone ensure that hourly contact is maintained with an appropriate colleague

Maintain water-fed pole systems

You must be able to

- P13 ensure that the tank systems and the equipment complies with the relevant legislation
- P14 take appropriate action to prevent build-ups
- P15 replace water filters at the correct intervals and follow the manufacturer's instructions for servicing
- P16 ensure the water-fed pole system is stored in a cool place when not in use
- P17 drain the tank and filters when the system is idle for an extended period

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Prepare to operate water-fed pole systems

- K1 how to conduct a risk assessment
- K2 when using vehicles, the payload capacity of the vehicle used in the water fed pole systems and the consequences of overloading
- K3 how the load may affect the handling and braking characteristics of the vehicle
- K4 the appropriate signage to display and the reasons for doing so
- K5 why it is important to wear high visibility clothing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- K6 relevant legislation for manufacture of tank systems

Operate water-fed pole systems

You need to know and understand:

- K7 why it is important to conduct regular equipment inspections
- K8 why defective equipment must not be used and the signs of this (e.g. worn or dented poles, loose or worn fittings)
- K9 when it is necessary to use a backpack system and how to use it safely
- K10 what are the risks associated with operation of a water-fed pole and how they can be reduced
- K11 why it is important to select the correct length pole
- K12 the correct handling techniques for portable systems
- K13 the different materials used for pole composition and when their use is appropriate
- K14 with whom contact should be maintained when working alone
- K15 how to clean differing types of surfaces and deal with different types of soiling

Maintain water-fed pole systems

You need to know and understand:

- K16 the relevant legislation with which equipment should comply
- K17 why it is important to keep the water tank clean and free from build-ups
- K18 how Legionella bacteria multiplies and spreads and how to prevent it
- K19 how and when it is necessary to replace water filters
- K20 why it is important that the tank system and equipment is stored correctly
- K21 how to remove the variety of types of build up in tank systems

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