

Overview

This standard covers the maintenance of water channel capacity by manual operations. Manual operations will involve the removal of debris, bank reforming, desilting and controlling water transfer.

You must carry out this work in a way which minimises the impact on the natural environment and enhances its nature, conservation and recreational value.

This standard is designed for employees or volunteers who are maintaining and improving the channel capacity through manual operations. It applies to work carried out on rivers, coasts and waterways.

Where operations require the use of machinery (such as chainsaws), you must hold a relevant qualification.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 access the site and carry out maintenance operations in accordance with instructions and specifications
- P2 prepare and use tools and equipment that are appropriate to the work safely and effectively
- P3 remove debris and obstructions securely and safely from the water, with minimal damage to the surrounding environment and to nearby structures
- P4 where accidental damage or pollution occurs, take immediate action to minimise the effects and inform the appropriate person(s)
- P5 ensure that your working methods meet any statutory restrictions on operations due to the status of the site
- P6 deal with waste and excess materials safely to minimise environmental risks, according to legal requirements
- P7 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental, health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements and company policies
- P8 improve the channel capacity through the completion of maintenance operations within the required timescales
- P9 recognise circumstances which impact your work
- P10 recognise opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats through modifications to working procedures and report them to the appropriate person
- P11 complete records as appropriate

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the instructions and specifications on how to carry out your work
- K2 how to safely and correctly access sites
- K3 the damage which would occur if the water channel was not maintained in accordance with instructions
- K4 how to maintain and improve channel capacity
- K5 how to safely and correctly use and maintain equipment and materials
- K6 why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and vehicles when on site
- K7 how to remove debris and obstructions from the water
- K8 the circumstances which may impact your work: environmental conditions, wildlife habitat, protected status of site, water flow, access and recreational use of the water environment
- K9 the appropriate action to take in response to changing circumstances (e.g. halt operations, report to appropriate person)
- K10 accidental damage or pollution which may occur during operations and the action which must be taken
- K11 how to implement emergency procedures
- K12 relevant legislation and organisational requirements for maintenance of the water channel
- K13 the potential impact of your work on the surrounding area and how to minimise this
- K14 how to deal with waste and excess material generated by your work
- K15 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
- K16 opportunities which may arise to enhance wildlife habitats and to whom these should be reported

Glossary

Maintenance operations:

1. removal of debris and obstructions
2. bank reforming
3. desilting
4. controlling water transfer

Equipment:

- 5 handheld tools
- 6 handheld power tools
- 7 manual winching equipment
- 8 manually operated water control systems (e.g. paddles, sluice gates, weirs)

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Maintain and improve water channel capacity by manual operations



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