

Overview

This standard is about controlling unwanted vegetation using appropriate methods. You could be working to a given specification that may define the methods to be used but you will be expected to determine how to carry out these methods on site.

The vegetation includes competing, notifiable, hazardous and excessive growth. You are required to minimise and/or avoid damage to the surrounding trees, other plant and animal species and to any structures such as fences, paths and signs.

Control methods may be manual, motor-manual or chemical.

"Mechanised" equipment can include a brushwood cutter, chainsaw, clearing saw, strimmer, etc.

When working with machinery or chemicals you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working methods, in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
5. identify vegetation that requires control
6. control unwanted vegetation in line with industry best practice and/or specification
7. follow organisational and industry environmental good practice and minimise environmental damage
8. maintain appropriate records
9. remove all waste and surplus materials and dispose of them as specified
10. ensure the site is left in a condition which meets environmental requirements, in accordance with the specification
11. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. how to identify unwanted vegetation
5. how to select the appropriate method and equipment for vegetation control
6. the basic implications of terrain, ground conditions, vegetation, the season and weather
7. the impact of using chemicals on the environment and how to minimise environmental damage
8. the use of mulching/mulch mats to aid the control of unwanted vegetation
9. the types of damage acceptable under various circumstances
10. the correct methods of disposing of surplus materials and/or waste
11. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
12. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice



Control unwanted vegetation

**Scope/range related
to knowledge and
understanding**

Know how to control the following kinds of unwanted vegetation:

- woody
- herbaceous
- grass
- competing
- hazardous
- notifiable
- excessive

Know how to use the following control measures:

- chemical
- mechanical
- manual

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