



Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Health and Safety in Construction

Unit code: DW4E 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide the candidate with a fundamental understanding of current health and safety legislative and regulatory requirements for construction together with approved codes of practice. Further, on the basis of knowledge provided about the cost implications of accidents, it is intended that the candidate will be enabled to prepare risk analyses and appropriate method statements for works.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Understand the implications of the current **Health and Safety at Work Act**, the Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM) and **Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs)** pertaining to Construction activities.
- 2 Understand the implications of the **sources** and **cost implications** of accidents.
- 3 Prepare **risk analyses** and realistic **method statements** for works.

Credit points and level: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*).

**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.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: It would be an advantage for candidates to have a basic understanding and knowledge of construction technology and construction methods. Such understanding and knowledge may be evidenced by the possession of NQ or HN units in construction technology. The Unit includes however the basic knowledge to permit candidates possessing other qualifications or experience to succeed in this Unit.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of Communication, Numeracy, Problem Solving, in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

General information for centres (cont)

Assessment: It is possible to assess candidates either on an individual Outcome basis, combinations of Outcomes or by a single holistic assessment combining all Outcomes. The assessment paper/s should be composed of an appropriate balance of short answer, restricted response and structured questions, and could be based on a single case study. Assessment should be conducted under supervised, controlled (and generally open book) conditions. A single assessment covering all Outcomes should not exceed two hours duration.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Applications of the Health and Safety at Work principles contained in this Unit are relevant to most other units of the award. The Unit may therefore be taught and assessed as a single unit or embedded within other units of the award.

An exemplar instrument of assessment and marking guidelines have been produced to provide an example of the type of evidence required to demonstrate achievement of the aims of this Unit and to indicate the national standard of achievement at SCQF level 7.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Understand the implications of the current **Health and Safety at Work Act**, the Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM) and **Approved Codes of Practice** (ACOP) pertaining to Construction activities

Throughout the unit emphasis will be placed where appropriate on the application of Health & Safety and Sustainability. Safe working practises should be looked at in accordance with current safety codes of practise and regulations. Sustainability should include reference to criteria affecting sustainability, impact of not implementing sustainability on the environment and the legislation promoting sustainability.

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Enabling powers of Health and Safety at Work Act and precautions
- ◆ Concepts of criminal and civil law as applied to safety
- ◆ Levels of compliance
- ◆ Duties of employers and employees
- ◆ Legality of Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs)

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe the hierarchical importance of the HASAWA, Regulations, and ACOPs
- ◆ compare and contrast the application of civil and criminal law
- ◆ describe the three levels of compliance
- ◆ describe the duties of employers and employees
- ◆ identify project requirements under the CDM Regulations for involved parties

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Health and Safety in Construction

Evidence for the knowledge and/or skills for this Outcome will be provided on a sample basis. In any assessment of this Outcome, a minimum of four out of six knowledge and/or skills items should be sampled. In order to ensure that candidates will not be able to foresee what items they will be questioned on, a different sample of knowledge and/or skill items is required each time the Outcome is assessed. Candidates must provide satisfactory response to all four items.

Evidence should be generated through assessment in controlled, supervised conditions. Assessment should be conducted under open book conditions with supervised internet access where possible. Candidates should be allowed to bring textbooks and notes to the assessment.

Assessment guidelines

Questions used to elicit candidate evidence should take the form of an appropriate balance of short answer, restricted response and structured questions.

The assessment might be combined with Outcomes 2 and 3 to form a single assessment paper.

Outcome 2

Understand the implication of the **sources** and **cost implications** of accidents

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Sources of accidents and disasters
- ◆ Costs of construction accidents
- ◆ Standing Committee on Structural Safety reports

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Describe the implications of non compliance with safe methods of work
- ◆ identify the potential impacts of weather and environmental factors
- ◆ quantify the cost impacts of poor control and communication
- ◆ assess the potential for lost production resulting from accidents
- ◆ describe the impacts of accidents on company reputation
- ◆ review SCOSS reports for guidance on site operations

In any assessment of this Outcome **all** knowledge and/or skills items should be included. Candidates must provide a satisfactory response to all items.

Evidence should be generated through assessment undertaken in controlled, supervised conditions. Assessment should be conducted under open book conditions and candidates should be allowed to bring in textbooks, handouts or notes to the assessment.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Health and Safety in Construction

Assessment guidelines

Questions used to elicit candidate evidence should take the form of an appropriate balance of short answer, restricted response and structured questions.

The assessment for this Outcome might be combined with Outcomes 1 and 3 to form a single assessment paper.

Outcome 3

Prepare **risk analyses** and realistic **method statements** for works

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Construction health and safety common risks
- ◆ Risk assessment requirements

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ describe common construction operation risks
- ◆ describe compliance with regulatory requirements in undertaking risk analyses
- ◆ assess construction operations for potential for harm, severity of harm and likelihood of occurrence
- ◆ propose methods for risk avoidance in the development of method statements

In any assessment of this Outcome **all** knowledge and/or skills items should be included. Candidates must provide a satisfactory response to all four items.

Evidence should be generated through assessment in controlled, supervised conditions. Assessment should be conducted under open book conditions and as such candidates should be allowed to bring textbooks or notes to the assessment.

Assessment guidelines

Questions used to elicit candidate evidence should take the form of an appropriate balance of short answer, restricted response and structured questions. The assessment might be combined with that for Outcomes 1 and 2, but ideally lends itself to an individual contextual case study.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DW4E 34
Unit title:	Health and Safety in Construction
Superclass category:	TE
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Health and Safety in Construction

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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

Outcome 1

Legislation, Regulations and Approved Codes of Practice (15 hours)

Legislation: The Health and Safety at Work Act as an enabling Act, case law, criminal law, civil law, the duties of employers and employees.

Regulations: Enabled by Section 16 of the HASAWA, the four levels of compliance, made under the provisions of Acts, Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, Construction (Design and Management) Regulations, Construction (health Safety and Welfare) Regulations.

Approved Codes of Practice (ACOP): Usefulness as practical guidance and advice, different legal status of guidance and advice.

Outcome 2

Accidents (10 hours)

Sources: non compliance with safe methods of work, poor communication, inadequate control, weather impacts, environmental factors.

Costs: Human, lost production, delays, loss of profits, prosecutions, company's reputation, shareholder pressure.

SCOSS: Review of Building and Civil Engineering matters affecting the safety of structures.

Outcome 3

Risk Analysis and Method Statements (15 hours)

Health and Safety: falling from height, being struck by moving vehicles, electrocution, musculoskeletal injury, inhaling toxic fumes and dust.

Risk Assessment Requirements: Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, Construction (Design and Management) Regulations, Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) regulations. The five steps to risk assessment. Identification of potential for harm, Assess severity of harm and likelihood of occurrence, methods for control or avoidance.

Human Factors: Training, procedures, timing, use of sub contractors.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit provides the candidate with the basic knowledge and understanding of health and safety requirements relating to the construction industry. The importance of the identification of hazards and the assessment of risks is best reinforced by appropriate site visits and/or case studies.

Recommended time allocations for each outcome are given as guidance towards the depth of treatment which might be applied to each topic.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Health and Safety in Construction

Where available, evidence from the workplace can also be incorporated to enhance the learning outcomes, provided that this evidence is appropriate and authenticated as the student's own work.

Applications of the Health and Safety at Work principles contained in this Unit are relevant to most other units of the award. The Unit may therefore be taught and assessed as a single unit or embedded within other units of the award.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The following grid provides a general guide to opportunities for the development of Core Skills in this Unit. Opportunities for the development of Core Skills at the output level are more fully identified in the Core Skills Signposting Guide.

Core Skill	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
1 Communication					
Reading	✓	✓	✓		
Writing					
Oral					
2 Numeracy					
Using Number			✓		
Using Graphical Information					
3 IT					
Using Information Technology					
4 Problem Solving					
Critical Thinking			✓		
Planning and Organising			✓		
Reviewing and Evaluating					
5 Working with Others					

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Health and Safety in Construction

Open learning

This Unit lends itself to open and flexible learning and can be underpinned by internet resources.

Given that appropriate learning materials exist this Unit could be delivered by distance learning, which may incorporate some degree of on-line support. However, with regard to assessment, planning would be required by the centre concerned to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Arrangement would be required to be put in place to ensure that the assessment was conducted under controlled, supervised conditions.

For information on normal open learning arrangements, please refer to SQA guide Assessment and Quality Assurance of Open and Distance Learning (SQA 2000).

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Alternative Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

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- 2 Understand the implications of the **sources** and **cost implications** of accidents.
- 3 Prepare **risk analyses** and realistic **method statements** for works.

Evidence that you can satisfy the knowledge and skill elements of this unit will be obtained by assessment in controlled, supervised conditions. Your tutor will inform you when textbooks, handouts or notes can be brought to the assessment.