



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Safe Use of Shotguns and Sporting Rifles (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FN5D 11

Superclass: MH

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Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

This Unit is intended for candidates who wish to develop their knowledge and practical skills in safely handling, firing and maintaining shotguns and sporting rifles. Candidates will also gain knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation in relation to shotguns and sporting rifles and their security.

This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Gamekeeping but is also available for candidates wishing to study the Unit on its own.

Outcomes

- 1 Handle shotguns and sporting rifles from carrying, loading and discharging.
- 2 Maintain shotguns and sporting rifles.
- 3 Describe current legislation relating to certificate application, storage and transportation of shotguns and sporting rifles.

Recommended entry

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 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.*

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

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Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

- ◆ Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5

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

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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.

All activities undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice

Outcome 1

Handle shotguns and sporting rifles from carrying, loading and discharging.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Demonstrate safety procedures for shotguns and sporting rifles.
- (b) Demonstrate safe carrying methods of weapons for both unloaded and loaded shotguns and sporting rifles.
- (c) Carry out a risk assessment of the environment where shotguns and sporting rifles are to be handled.
- (d) Carry out safe loading and unloading procedures for shotguns and sporting rifles.
- (e) Demonstrate safe stance and firing positions when discharging shotguns and sporting rifles.
- (f) Aim and discharge shotguns and sporting rifles safely.
- (g) Describe the procedure in the event of a misfire of shotguns and sporting rifles.
- (h) Describe the procedure in the event of a barrel obstruction.

Outcome 2

Maintain shotguns and sporting rifles

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify the main components of shotguns and sporting rifles.
- (b) Explain why it is important to clean and maintain shotguns and sporting rifles.
- (c) Select the correct tools and equipment for cleaning and maintaining shotguns and sporting rifles.
- (d) Demonstrate safe disassembly of shotguns and sporting rifles in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, organisational procedures and safe working practices.
- (e) Demonstrate safe cleaning techniques for shotguns and sporting rifles in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, organisational procedures and safe working practices.
- (f) Demonstrate the safe assembly of shotguns and sporting rifles in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, organisation procedures and safe working practices.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Describe current legislation relating to certificate application and storage and transportation of shotguns and sporting rifles.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify relevant legislation relating to owning/handling shotguns and sporting rifles.
- (b) Describe the process for applying for a shotgun certificate.
- (c) Describe the process for applying for a sporting rifle certificate.
- (d) Describe requirements for the secure and safe storage and transportation of shotguns and sporting rifles and their ammunition.

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

All activities undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice.

Written/oral and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Candidates should provide written and/or oral recorded evidence and performance evidence to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and/or skills in relation to the Outcome and Performance Criteria.

The evidence must include demonstration of the following tasks:

- ◆ correct safety procedures in assessing a shotgun/sporting rifle
- ◆ selection of correct cartridge for appropriate shotgun/sporting rifle
- ◆ selection of correct rifle cartridge for appropriate shotgun/sporting rifle
- ◆ carry out/contribute to a risk assessment of the environment where guns are being handled
- ◆ demonstrate safe carrying of shotguns
- ◆ demonstrate safe carrying of sporting rifles
- ◆ correct procedure for loading and unloading of shotgun/sporting rifle
- ◆ appropriate stance and position to the target presented
- ◆ safe and effective discharge of the shotgun/sporting rifle

Candidates must also demonstrate muzzle awareness throughout.

The evidence must also include description of:

- ◆ misfire procedure
- ◆ barrel obstruction procedure

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 2

Candidates should provide written and/or oral recorded and performance evidence to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and/or skills in relation to the Outcome and Performance Criteria.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ correct identification of the main component parts of shotguns and sporting rifles
- ◆ explanation of the importance of cleaning and maintaining shotguns and sporting rifles
- ◆ selection of the appropriate cleaning rods and attachments to ensure that barrels are clean and inspected for any faults
- ◆ demonstration of the correct sequence of disassembly of shotguns and sporting rifles
- ◆ demonstration of the correct cleaning of shotgun and sporting rifle components, with relevant checks and maintenance tasks carried out
- ◆ demonstration of the correct sequence of reassembly of shotguns and sporting rifles ensuring that they are functional.

All of the above should be carried out in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and safe working practices

Outcome 3

Candidates should provide written and/or recorded oral evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge, understanding and/or skills in relation to the Outcome and Performance Criteria.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ identification of relevant legislation
- ◆ description of the application process for applying for a shotgun certificate
- ◆ description of the application process for applying for a sporting rifle certificate
- ◆ identification of the correct legal requirements for shotgun and sporting rifle storage
- ◆ identification of the correct legal requirements for storage of ammunition
- ◆ description of the correct legal requirements for transportation of ammunition, shotguns and sporting rifles

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Safe Use of Shotguns and Sporting Rifles (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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Gamekeeping (SCQF level 5), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit aligns to the following LANTRA National Occupational Standards:

- ◆ CU49.2 Cull Deer
- ◆ CU47.2 Shoot Vertebrate Pests and Predators

This Unit is intended for candidates who wish to develop knowledge and understanding and practical skills on the use of shotguns and sporting rifles.

Outcome 1

This Outcome enables candidates to develop knowledge and skills in the safe use of shotguns and sporting rifles. This includes checking shotgun/sporting rifle to ensure they are unloaded and safe. The shotgun/sporting rifle must be transferred to and from a case or slip in the correct manner and then be carried appropriately. If placed in a vehicle this must meet best practice guidelines. The candidate will be made aware of the importance of knowing the state of the weapon at all times as well as muzzle awareness. The candidate will gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of making safe any weapon as and when required and how to handle when crossing obstacles. The candidate must demonstrate the correct procedures for loading and unloading of shotguns and sporting rifles and at what stage they change states from unloaded to loaded. The correct stance and shooting position should be demonstrated in accordance with industry codes of best practice. There should be coverage of risk assessment in this Outcome taking into account the physical environment and personnel present

Outcome 2

This Outcome enables the candidate to gain the underpinning knowledge and practical skills to select the correct tools and equipment to clean and maintain shotguns and sporting rifles. Candidates will learn the correct sequence of disassembly of shotguns and sporting rifles and the importance of using the correct solvents and lubricants in the required quantities to maintain the safe functioning of shotguns and sporting rifles. The candidate will select the appropriate cleaning rods and attachments to ensure that the barrels are clean and inspected for any faults. Both shotgun and sporting rifle components will be cleaned, and relevant checks and maintenance tasks are carried out. On completion of cleaning and maintenance tasks the candidate will reassemble the shotguns and sporting rifles in the correct sequence ensuring that they are functional. All of the foregoing should be carried out in the context of safe working practices and following manufacturer's instructions and candidates should be clear on the importance of adhering to these.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Safe Use of Shotguns and Sporting Rifles (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 3

This Outcome will enable the candidate to develop knowledge and understanding of the process and requirements of applying for both a shotgun and a sporting rifle certificate. The candidate will identify and understand the need for strict adherence to the relevant police guidelines as well as the emphasis on the correct information being submitted in a clear, honest and timely manner. The candidate should describe the current legal requirement for the secure storage of shotguns, sporting rifles and their ammunition. Emphasis should be made on ensuring any illegal access is prevented and that ammunition is stored securely and separate from any shotguns and sporting rifles. The candidate will learn of the safety requirements for shotguns and sporting rifles and their ammunition whilst being transported in vehicles.

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Through this Unit candidates will gain knowledge and understanding relating to the use of shotguns and sporting rifles whilst developing their practical skills. It is essential that candidates are aware of best practice and the current relevant key aspects that relate to the use of shotguns and sporting rifles.

Essential knowledge and understanding could be developed by a variety of teaching and learning approaches including:

- ◆ tutorials
- ◆ DVD/video
- ◆ demonstrations
- ◆ internet/website
- ◆ internal visitation
- ◆ visit to sporting rifles dealers/clay target grounds
- ◆ codes of good practice from British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Clay Pigeon Shooting Association and Scottish Natural Heritage

It is expected that candidates will be given support and guidance from the instructor/lecturer in all Outcomes before progressing to an assessment.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Safe Use of Shotguns and Sporting Rifles (SCQF level 5)

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The following approaches to assessments are suggested:

Outcome 1	Practical observation checklist
Outcome 2	Practical observation checklist
Outcome 3	Open-book project

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

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

In this Unit the candidate will identify key areas of best practice, identify and develop skills related to shotguns and sporting rifles. This provides ideal opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of Communication, Numeracy and Problem solving.

This Unit has the Problem Solving component of Critical Thinking embedded in it, so when the candidate achieves this Unit their Core Skills profile will be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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