

National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Health and Safety in the Construction Industry
(SCQF level 6)

Unit code: H669 46

Superclass: TE

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Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is intended for learners, who are currently working in, or desire to work in, the construction sector and who want to develop knowledge and understanding of health and safety relevant to the construction industry. The aims of the unit are to introduce the learner to safety awareness, hazard identification, safe working practices and occupational health issues associated with work in the construction industry. This Unit will also provide the learner with the basic understanding of procedures to be followed in the event of fire or accident in the workplace.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Explain the importance of site safety awareness and training in the construction industry.
- 2 Describe safe working practices and emergency procedures used in the construction industry.
- 3 Identify occupational health problems in the construction industry.

National Unit specification: General information (cont)

Unit title: Health and Safety in the Construction Industry
(SCQF level 6)

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 6: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6)

Recommended entry to the Unit

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, learners would normally be expected to have attained a Standard Grade in English/National Level 4 in English or equivalent.

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

The Assessment Support Pack (ASP) for this Unit provides assessment and marking guidelines that exemplify the national standard for achievement. It is a valid, reliable and practicable instrument of assessment. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the ASP to ensure a comparable standard. A list of existing ASPs is available to download from SQA's website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46233.2769.html>).

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

National Unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Health and Safety in the Construction Industry
(SCQF level 6)

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.

Outcome 1

Explain the importance of site safety awareness and training in the construction industry.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Explain the use of a site induction and outline appropriate content.
- (b) Explain how to promote health and safety awareness in a construction environment.
- (c) Explain the benefits of safety awareness training for those working in the construction industry.
- (d) Identify hazards, risks and reduction measures associated with construction operations.

Outcome 2

Describe safe working practices and emergency procedures used in the construction industry.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe different classifications of fire and appropriate types of fire extinguishers for each.
- (b) Describe the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire or accident on a construction site
- (c) Describe Personal Protective Equipment required for given working practices in the construction industry.

Outcome 3

Identify occupational health problems in the construction industry.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify causes of ill health in the construction industry
- (b) Identify areas where asbestos may be found in buildings and possible health effects from contact with asbestos.
- (c) Describe the procedure to be followed in the finding of hazardous materials.

National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Health and Safety in the Construction Industry
(SCQF level 6)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Evidence is required to demonstrate that learners have achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Assessment must be manageable and practicable for centres.

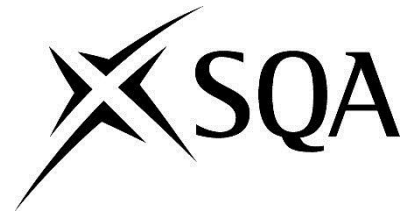
In this Unit an appropriate instrument of assessment would be question papers consisting of a balance of short answer, restricted response, multiple choice or structured questions, based on case study material presented to the learner for a construction site.

Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 can be assessed together in a closed book assessment under supervised and controlled conditions. An appropriate risk assessment template is available from the Health and Safety Executive website. The maximum duration for this assessment should be 1.5 hours.

Outcome 3 should be assessed using a closed book assessment under supervised and controlled conditions. The maximum duration of this assessment should be 1 hour.

Written and/or recorded oral evidence must be retained by the centre to demonstrate the learner has achieved all Performance Criteria through their developing a basic working understanding of:

- ◆ Site induction
- ◆ Site safety awareness
- ◆ Awareness training for operatives and site management
- ◆ Construction site hazards and appropriate safety precautions
- ◆ Fire classifications and types of extinguisher
- ◆ Fire or accident procedures
- ◆ Personal Protective Equipment
- ◆ Ill health in the construction industry
- ◆ Health effects from contact with asbestos
- ◆ Legislative controls and procedures covering construction materials



National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Health and Safety in the Construction Industry
(SCQF level 6)

Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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 has been developed as a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate Built Environment SCQF level 6 and National Certificate Civil Engineering at SCQF level 6 and can be delivered as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit aims to introduce the learner to the importance of safety awareness by developing awareness of unsafe acts, conditions and the identification of hazards around a number of given construction operations along with the benefits associated with safety awareness training and the implementation of safety precautions. The Unit further develops the learner's understanding of the causes and effects of occupational health issues in the construction industry.

Outcome 1 covers site safety awareness and training in the construction industry. Learners will give consideration to the importance for anyone who may go onto a construction site to be trained and aware of the potential for injury or ill health. Learners should look at ways in which this information relating to health and safety is communicated to all on site. For learners who may wish to undertake site supervision or management in the future this will provide an introduction to the role of the supervisor or manager in making all on site aware of health and safety issues. Learners will gain knowledge in hazard identification and gather skills to make decisions on appropriate safety precautions to reduce risks from common site activities.

Outcome 2 is intended to allow learners to examine procedures to be taken following an incident on site. The classifications of fires and the types of extinguishers used on these will be considered. In addition learners will explore the use of personal protective equipment as a control measure and identify what would make it suitable for a variety of situations.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Health and Safety in the Construction Industry
(SCQF level 6)

Outcome 3 involves the identification of causes and effects of occupational health problems in the construction industry. In addition the learner will explore the use of asbestos in buildings and the associated health risks. The knowledge and understanding gained in this unit will assist the learner who is progressing to the HN Unit *Health and Safety in Construction* (SCQF level 7) or who as part of their employment has to undertake skills card tests or site safety qualifications for operatives, supervisors or site managers.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

Emphasis in delivery of the Unit should be on familiarisation with elements of health and safety for a large, multi-disciplined construction site.

The use of case study material is particularly recommended for both the learning and assessment components of this Unit. Learners would benefit greatly from a visit to a construction site or the use of photographs and videos of current site practices together with site layout drawings.

The study material should commence by providing the learner with an initial introduction to site safety from the perspective of a new entrant arriving on site, covering site induction requirements. There is a range of suitable films that are available in hard copy and on the web that could be used as an appropriate introduction to this subject area. Learners could then identify the meaning of safety awareness and how such can be achieved which would include a study of the benefits of safety awareness training, through a study of HSE documentation and statistics for the Construction Industry and through familiarity with the various card schemes and competence schemes available such as CSCS, CCNSG and Site Safety Plus for site operatives, supervisors and managers, etc. As part of the site induction activity, the learner could be introduced to the procedures for fire and emergency on a construction site together with appropriate fire extinguisher types for various classes of fire. Learners would also be introduced to the basic Personal Protective Equipment normally required for most large sites, ie safety helmet, safety footwear, hi-visibility garments, protective eyewear and gloves and the function of each, together with examining the correct use and care of PPE and Respiratory Protective Equipment required for specific tasks.

The learner would then move on to identifying the hazards and safety precautions from a range of construction activities with the opportunity of making use of HSE 'Five Steps to Risk Assessment' hand-outs. It is suggested that learners have access to hazard spotting activity sheets in the form of either drawings or photographs showing the categories of site hazards listed in the outcome. The learner can then identify the hazards and decide on the appropriate safety precautions

Further learning would involve an examination of occupational health issues within the construction industry including those caused by materials and substances encountered in a construction environment such as skin diseases, industrial deafness, vibration, musculoskeletal disorders, exposure to hazardous chemicals and products, solvents, dusts, biological hazards, stress and possible health effects from contact with asbestos.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Health and Safety in the Construction Industry
(SCQF level 6)

Suggested teaching and learning methods for this Unit could include: the use of visual aids, ICT, group lectures and discussions, practical demonstrations, question and answer sessions, direct study and site visits. The learner could also be directed towards appropriate films on online video resource sites. Centres who can access NLN materials through a VLE may find this a useful source of interactive materials. The Health and Safety Executive's website is a rich source of information.

Formative work for the Unit could specifically include group discussions and teamwork activities as such approaches could be particularly beneficial to learners with no industrial experience. This Unit could be integrated through the delivery of other Units in the Group Award.

There may be opportunities for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) for learners who have undertaken the previous version of this Unit F3JA 12 *Health and Safety in the Construction Industry*. This is at the discretion of delivering centres. There is no automatic credit transfer.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

In this Unit an appropriate instrument of assessment would be question papers consisting of a balance of short answer, restricted response and structured questions, based on case study material presented to the learner for a multi-disciplined construction site.

Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 could be assessed together.

The assessment should be presented as a closed book case study scenario based on a large construction site which covers the content of both Outcomes within this Unit.

The case study materials could then be used to assess Outcome 3 individually using restricted response questions.

Where assessment is designated as closed book, the evidence for the assessment must be obtained under controlled, supervised conditions.

Preparation for assessment should include formative work with opportunities for constructive feedback.

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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(SCQF level 6)

The Assessment Support Pack (ASP) for this Unit provides sample assessment material. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the ASP to ensure a comparable standard.

There may be opportunities for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) for learners who have undertaken the previous version of this Unit F3JA 12 *Health and Safety in the Construction Industry*. This is at the discretion of delivering centres. There is no automatic credit transfer.

Opportunities for 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 social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

In this Unit, learners are required to identify hazards and safety precautions from case study materials. This will afford opportunities for developing aspects of the Core Skill in *Problem Solving*. In addition, opportunities may arise for learners to work together as part of the learning process. These opportunities may allow learners to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Working with Others*. Through using the internet for research purposes, learners would have the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

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This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is suitable for you if you have limited or no experience of health and safety and welfare requirements within the construction industry context.

This Unit aims to introduce you to the importance of safety awareness by increasing knowledge and understanding in site safety awareness, hazard identification and safe working practices and occupational health issues associated with work in the construction industry. This Unit will also provide you with the basic understanding of procedures to be followed in the event of fire or accident in the workplace.

You will be required to undertake a combined assessment for Outcome 1 and Outcome 2. This is likely to be a closed book case study scenario based on a large construction site which covers the content of both Outcomes within this Unit.

The case study materials may then be used to assess Outcome 3 using restricted response questions.

Where assessment is designated as closed book, the evidence for the assessment must be obtained under controlled, supervised conditions.

In this Unit, you are required to identify hazards and safety precautions from case study materials. This will afford opportunities for developing aspects of the Core Skill in *Problem Solving*. In addition, opportunities may arise for you to work together with other learners as part of the learning process. These opportunities may allow you to develop aspects of the Core Skill of *Working with Others*.

Through using the internet for research purposes, you would have the opportunity to develop the Core Skill of *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.