



National unit specification

General information

Unit title: Operate a Powered Pole Saw (SCQF level 6)

Unit code: HH54 46

Superclass: SG

Publication date: December 2016

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 02

Unit purpose

This unit covers the preparation and use of a powered pole saw for the purposes of pruning and limbing trees. The unit has been specifically designed to meet the requirements of the Highways and Construction Training Association's (HCTA) Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme (CORS).

Outcomes

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

- 1 Prepare for pole saw operation.
- 2 Carry out pole saw operations.
- 3 Complete pole saw operations.

Credit points and level

0.5 National unit credits at SCQF level 6: (3 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6)

Recommended entry to the unit

Entry to this unit is at the discretion of the delivering centre.

National unit specification: General information (cont)

Unit title: Operate a Powered Pole Saw (SCQF level 6)

Core Skills

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

Complete Core Skill	None
Core Skill component	Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5 Planning and Organising 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.

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.

This unit is intended for use by chainsaw users such as term maintenance contractors, local authority grounds maintenance staff and those carrying out emergency works on highways.

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: Operate a Powered Pole Saw (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

Prepare for pole saw operation.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Position signing, lighting and guarding.
- (b) Carry out safety checks on the equipment.
- (c) Check and adjust chain tension.
- (d) Check chain oil and fuel fluid levels.
- (e) Conduct a risk assessment.
- (f) Select working methods suitable for tree species and condition and in accordance with assessed risks.
- (g) Select and use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and support harness.

Outcome 2

Carry out pole saw operations.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Ensure site is ready for work to commence.
- (b) Carry out starting procedure in accordance with manufacturers information.
- (c) Demonstrate pruning/limbing techniques for branches under compression and tension.
- (d) Demonstrate the procedure for removing a trapped guide bar.
- (e) Demonstrate pruning techniques at branch collars.
- (f) Section heavier branches.
- (g) Maintain a safe work position at all times.
- (h) Comply with all relevant Health and Safety requirements and environmental good practice.

National unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Operate a Powered Pole Saw (SCQF level 6)

Outcome 3

Complete pole saw operations.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Leave the site in a safe and tidy condition.
- (b) Check and clean air filter.
- (c) Check shaft extension.
- (d) Remove bars and chain from cutting head.
- (e) Clean cutting head.
- (f) Check drive sprocket for wear.
- (g) Check and clean the guide bar.
- (h) Check the condition of the chain.
- (i) Re-attach bar and chain.
- (j) Tension the chain.
- (k) Sharpen the chain and check depth regulator for height.
- (l) Check and top up fuel and chain oil levels.
- (m) Comply with all relevant Health and Safety requirements and environmental good practice.

Evidence Requirements for this unit

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

Evidence is required of the learner's ability to:

Prepare, Carry Out and Complete powered pole saw operations to safely remove a **minimum of 6** overhanging limbs

Evidence should be generated under realistic working conditions with the powered pole saw being used in situ.

Given the obvious risks to the learners and others it is imperative that all relevant Health and Safety policies and procedures are fully complied with throughout this unit.

Evidence could take the form of:

- ◆ Observation checklist of practical activities
- ◆ Completed Risk Assessment
- ◆ Written and/or recorded oral responses to questions
- ◆ Photographic/video evidence of practical activities



National unit Support Notes

Unit title: Operate a Powered Pole Saw (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 20 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this unit

This unit has been specifically written to meet the requirements of the Highways and Construction Training Association's (HCTA) Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme (CORS) CS8 "Powered Pole Saw". Achievement of this unit will demonstrate that the learner is suitably trained and qualified to undertake this work.

The key vocational knowledge and skills covered in this unit are as follows:

- ◆ Key components of the powered pole saw
- ◆ Equipment prestart checks
- ◆ Site risk assessments and risk reduction strategies
- ◆ Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- ◆ Branches under compression and tension
- ◆ Correct techniques to free a trapped guide bar
- ◆ Cleaning and maintenance of the powered pole saw
- ◆ Storing machinery and equipment for transport

The centre must ensure that all learners are suitably trained and qualified in the use and maintenance of chainsaws prior to undertaking this unit.

The importance of conducting a thorough risk assessment should be covered along with emergency planning and how working methods can be adjusted to minimise risks depending on the site, site conditions, time of year and tree species and condition.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this unit

The unit is designed to be sequential, progressing from preparation and planning through to operation and finally completion of the task and maintenance. It is recommended that the unit is delivered in this sequence; however there may be opportunities to develop evidence during naturally occurring circumstances where this is safe to do so.

Delivering centres will require access to powered pole saws and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and to a site containing suitable trees to work on in order to allow learners to generate the required evidence. The centre should ensure that all relevant equipment has a recent valid certificate of inspection/examination.

National unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Operate a Powered Pole Saw (SCQF level 6)

The learner should be given ample opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in a safe environment prior to assessment.

Given the obvious risks to the learner and others from operating a powered pole saw due emphasis should be placed on the importance of conducting a thorough Risk Assessment and on complying with all relevant Health and Safety requirements and Standard Operating procedures.

Where the deliverer and/or assessor have any concerns over the safety of any activities being undertaken then all delivery and assessment should be ceased immediately until the safety concerns are satisfactorily resolved. The centre must also ensure that the work site environment and weather conditions do not create unnecessary risk.

An assessor to learner ratio of 1:6 should not be exceeded for any practical aspects of delivery or assessment.

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.

Assessments should be carried out in situ and the environment should mirror a realistic working environment as closely as is practicable. The centres may have to deliberately hang up some trees to ensure learners have the opportunity to meet all Performance Criteria.

Learners must complete a suitable and sufficient assessment of the hazards and risks associated with the work activity (a Risk Assessment). This should be documented in an agreed format (in line with Standard Operating Procedures) and could form part of the learner's evidence.

Evidence for the unit as a whole could be generated using a single project where the learner is required to prepare for, carry out and complete (including maintenance) pole saw operations on a minimum of 6 overhanging limbs. If it is not possible to produce evidence for the whole unit during a single assessment, evidence could be generated on an Outcome by Outcome basis; however the learner should still be required to demonstrate their ability to safely carry out all the tasks required in the required sequence.

A portfolio or e-portfolio could be used to store and organise a learner's evidence. If this unit is being delivered in conjunction with other related units a single portfolio could be used, cross referenced to show where evidence can be integrated across units.

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.

National unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Operate a Powered Pole Saw (SCQF level 6)

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

There may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Problem Solving and Working with Others at SCQF level 5.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising components of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when learners achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5 and Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5.

History of changes to unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Components Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5 embedded.	21/02/2017

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2016, 2017

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

General information for learners

Unit title: Operate a Powered Pole Saw (SCQF level 6)

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 are required to operate a powered pole saw as part of your work.

The unit has been designed to meet the requirements of the Highways and Construction Training Association's (HCTA) Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme (CORS). Completion of this unit will allow you to demonstrate that you are suitably trained and qualified to use a powered pole saw.

The unit contains three Outcomes, the first covers the preparation and planning required before starting to operate the pole saw, including carrying out a risk assessment. The second Outcome covers the practical work required to prune and limb trees using a pole saw. Finally, Outcome 3 covers completing the work including maintenance of the pole saw and returning the site to a clean and tidy condition.

This unit has a practical focus and the assessments will reflect that, you will be observed carrying out the range of tasks required but you will also have to produce a risk assessment.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking and Planning and Organising components of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when you achieve the Unit, your Core Skills profile will also be updated to show you have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5 and Planning and Organising at SCQF level 5.