



## National unit specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (SCQF level 6)

**Unit code:** HH56 46

**Superclass:** SG

**Publication date:** December 2016

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 02

### Unit purpose

This unit is designed to allow the learner to demonstrate their ability to safely operate a chainsaw from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP).

This unit only covers working from an elevated platform and is NOT intended to replace the requirement for suitable chainsaw training or for suitable training in the use of a MEWP.

Learners must be suitably trained and qualified in the safe operation of a chainsaw and the safe operation of a MEWP prior to undertaking this unit.

This unit is suitable for anyone required to operate a chainsaw from an Elevated Working Platform, for example Highways maintenance workers, background clearance and maintenance contractors.

### Outcomes

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

- 1 Prepare for limbing operations from a mobile elevated work platform.
- 2 Carry out limbing operations from a mobile elevated work platform.
- 3 Complete limbing operations from a mobile elevated work platform.

### Credit points and level

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

## National unit specification: General information (cont)

**Unit title:** Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (SCQF level 6)

### Recommended entry to the unit

Entry to this unit is at the discretion of the centre, however learners must be in possession of a valid qualification or certificate in chainsaw maintenance and use. This could be evidenced by possession of National units “*Maintain a Chainsaw*” HH4N 46 and “*Clear Lying Timber*” HH4P 46 or equivalent. **They must also have received adequate training for the safe operation of a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) and hold a valid certificate of competence as a MEWP operator.**

### 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, term maintenance contractors, local authority grounds maintenance staff and those carrying out emergency works on highways. It has not been designed for the traditional forestry and arboriculture sectors, which has a much greater focus on the end use of the timber. This unit focuses on working from a MEWP and DOES NOT cover aerial tree climbing using ropes and harness.

### 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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

## **National unit specification: Statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (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 limbing operations from a mobile elevated work platform.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Carry out pre-works checks on the Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP).
- (b) Conduct a risk assessment.
- (c) Carry out a hazard evaluation and a “working at height” assessment of the tree.
- (d) Ensure signing and guarding measures are in place.
- (e) Position the MEWP correctly for the task.
- (f) Set up the MEWP for work with regard to stability and overhead obstructions.
- (g) Check the condition of lanyards and harness.
- (h) Check the MEWP operational controls.

### **Outcome 2**

Carry out limbing operations from a mobile elevated work platform.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Position the MEWP in to a suitable work position.
- (b) Secure hanging strop.
- (c) Attach lowering and guide ropes.
- (d) Remove lateral and horizontal limbs using compression and tension cutting techniques.
- (e) Lower severed limbs to the ground under full control.
- (f) Demonstrate the procedure for freeing a trapped saw.
- (g) Communicate effectively with ground staff throughout operation.
- (h) Comply with all relevant Health and Safety requirements and environmental good practice.

### **Outcome 3**

Complete limbing operations from a mobile elevated work platform.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Retrieve all strops, blocks and ropes.
- (b) Return the platform and secure for travelling.
- (c) Leave the site in a safe and tidy condition.
- (d) Clean and sharpen the chainsaw.
- (e) Comply with all relevant Health and Safety requirements and environmental good practice.

## **National unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (SCQF level 6)

### **Evidence Requirements for this unit**

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

A single project to:

#### **Prepare, Carry Out and Complete a limbing operation from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)**

Could be used to generate evidence for the unit as a whole.

Evidence should be generated under realistic working conditions with the limbing operation taking place in situ.

If this unit is assessed on a public highway all signing, barriers etc. must conform to Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual and the New Roads and Streetworks Act approved code of practice (red book).

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 consist 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:** Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (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 is intended for use by suitably qualified Chainsaw users to demonstrate their ability to work safely from an Elevated Working Platform. The centre must ensure that all learners are adequately trained in the safe use of MEWP and hold a valid certificate of competence as a MEWP operator. The unit is not intended to replace the requirement for specific chainsaw use and maintenance training and should not be attempted by any non-qualified learners.

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

- ◆ Key components of the MEWP
- ◆ Pre-work checks on MEWP operation
- ◆ Risk assessments and risk reduction strategies
- ◆ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- ◆ Checks required on all lifting equipment
- ◆ Positioning of MEWP
- ◆ Elimination of compression and tension using appropriate cuts
- ◆ Securing limbs to be removed
- ◆ Lowering severed limbs to ground under full control
- ◆ Procedures for freeing trapped saw
- ◆ Returning platform to stow position
- ◆ Cleaning and maintenance of saw

The unit is specifically designed to meet the requirements of the Chainsaw Operators Regulation Scheme (CORS) in relation to work from a MEWP. It **DOES NOT** cover aerial tree climbing using ropes and harness.

### 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.

## National unit Support Notes

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Delivering centres will require access to a working MEWP, chainsaws 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 (including fall arrest equipment) has a recent valid certificate of inspection/examination.

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 chainsaw at height 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 cease 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.

The centre should not proceed with any delivery or assessment of this unit until they are satisfied that the learner is suitably trained in the safe use and maintenance of a chainsaw and in the safe use and operation of the MEWP.

A learner to assessor ratio of 4:1 should not be exceeded for any practical aspects of delivery or assessment.

If this unit is delivered or assessed on the public highway all signing, barriers etc. must conform to Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual and the New Roads and Streetworks Act approved code of practice.

### **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.

Assessments should be carried out in situ and the environment should mirror a realistic working environment as closely as is practicable.

Learners must complete a suitable and sufficient assessment of the 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.

## National unit Support Notes

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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) a limbing operation from a MEWP. 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.

### 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](http://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.	21/02/17

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## **General information for learners**

### **Unit title:** Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (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 specialist unit is designed to allow you to demonstrate your ability to safely carry out limbing operations from a Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP). You can only undertake this unit if you are already adequately trained and hold a valid certificate of competence as a MEWP operator and are also qualified to operate and maintain a chainsaw.

This unit meets the requirements of the Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme (CORS) and successful completion of it will allow you to demonstrate to an employer that you are able to work safely with a chainsaw from a MEWP.

The assessment for this unit will be of a largely practical nature, you will be required to demonstrate your ability to work safely in a real working environment

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.