



Group Award Specification for:

**Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6
Group Award Code: GP5C 46**

**Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6
Group Award Code: GP5A 46**

**Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6
Group Award Code: GP59 46**

**Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6
Group Award Code: GP5D 46**

**Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6
Group Award Code: GP5E 46**

**Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6
Group Award Code: GP5F 46**

**Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6
Group Award Code: GP5H 46**

**Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6
Group Award Code: GP5J 46**

**Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing
Operations at SCQF level 6
Group Award Code: GP5G 46**

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Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Qualifications structure.....	2
	2.1 Structure.....	2
3	Aims of the qualifications.....	4
	3.1 General aims of the qualifications.....	4
	3.2 Specific aims of the qualifications.....	4
4	Recommended entry to the qualifications.....	5
	4.1 Core Skills entry profile.....	6
5	Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs.....	6
	5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units.....	7
	5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS).....	7
	5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualifications.....	8
	5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualifications.....	9
6	Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment.....	10
	6.1 Sequencing/integration of units.....	10
	6.2 Recognition of prior learning.....	10
	6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment.....	13
	6.4 Resource requirements.....	13
	6.5 Use of simulation.....	14
7	General information for centres.....	15
8	Glossary of terms.....	15
9	General information for learners.....	18

1 Introduction

This document was previously known as the arrangements document. The purpose of this document is to:

- ◆ assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification
- ◆ provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification
- ◆ inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and HEIs of the aims and purpose of the qualification
- ◆ provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities

The suite of SCQF level 6 awards detailed in this document has been specifically designed to address the requirements for suitably trained and qualified chainsaw operators. SQA has worked in partnership with industry body the Highways and Construction Training Association (HCTA) to create this suite of qualifications which will allow successful learners to demonstrate to employers and others that they can safely and effectively operate a chainsaw or related equipment under the conditions of the specific qualification they have achieved.

The qualifications have been designed for occasional chainsaw users including highways maintenance workers and maintenance contractors. A range of group awards have been produced to ensure that the different contexts that may require chainsaw use are covered and there are also awards to cover the use of related equipment and machinery, such as powered pole saws, wood chippers and Mobile Elevated Working Platforms (MEWPs).

Those learners who undertake an award or awards as part of the HCTA Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme (CORS) will be eligible for a CORS card which will detail the areas they are qualified for and the currency of the qualifications, either 3 or 5 years depending on frequency of use. Further information on HCTA and the Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme can be found:

<http://www.hcta.co.uk/cors.html>

The titles of the group awards have been selected to represent the specific competencies they cover and to correspond with the existing HCTA Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme. Each award is at SCQF level 6 and they can be combined and built upon to reflect the range of activities the learner is required to carry out. While these qualifications have been designed with the occasional user working in a highways context in mind they may also be a useful starting point for those wishing to pursue a career within Forestry, Arboriculture, Silviculture or Amenity Horticulture/Landscaping.

2 Qualifications structure

2.1 Structure

Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
Mandatory units 6 SCQF points required					
HH4N	46	Maintain a Chainsaw	6	3	0.5
HH4P	46	Clear Lying Timber	6	3	0.5

Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
Mandatory units 9 SCQF points required					
HH4N	46	Maintain a Chainsaw	6	3	0.5
HH4P	46	Clear Lying Timber	6	3	0.5
HH4R	46	Fell Small Trees	6	3	0.5

Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
Mandatory units 12 SCQF points required					
HH4N	46	Maintain a Chainsaw	6	3	0.5
HH4P	46	Clear Lying Timber	6	3	0.5
HH4R	46	Fell Small Trees	6	3	0.5
HH4T	46	Fell Large Trees	6	3	0.5

Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
Mandatory units 12 SCQF points required					
HH4N	46	Maintain a Chainsaw	6	3	0.5
HH4P	46	Clear Lying Timber	6	3	0.5
HH4R	46	Fell Small Trees	6	3	0.5
HH4V	46	Clear Individual Fallen or Windblown Trees	6	3	0.5

Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
Mandatory units 12 SCQF points required					
HH4N	46	Maintain a Chainsaw	6	3	0.5
HH4P	46	Clear Lying Timber	6	3	0.5
HH4R	46	Fell Small Trees	6	3	0.5
HH53	46	Clear Multiple Fallen or Windblown Trees	6	3	0.5

Group Award Specification: Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46), Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46), Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46), Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46), Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46), Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46), Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
Mandatory units 9 SCQF points required					
HH4N	46	Maintain a Chainsaw	6	3	0.5
HH4P	46	Clear Lying Timber	6	3	0.5
HH52	46	Operate a Hand Winch	6	3	0.5

Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
Mandatory units 3 SCQF points required					
HH54	46	Operate a Powered Pole Saw	6	3	0.5

Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
Mandatory units 3 SCQF points required					
HH55	46	Operate a Wood Chipper	6	3	0.5

Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SCQF level	SCQF credit points	SQA credit
Mandatory units 9 SCQF points required					
HH4N	46	Maintain a Chainsaw	6	3	0.5
HH4P	46	Clear Lying Timber	6	3	0.5
HH56	46	Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)	6	3	0.5

The design principles for the award qualification type state:

- ◆ An award and its component unit(s) will be allocated to a level appropriate to their position in the SCQF
- ◆ Awards can be set at SCQF levels 1–12
- ◆ Awards have no restriction on the value of SCQF credit points
- ◆ Awards may have:
 - Mandatory units only
 - Mandatory and optional units
 - Optional units only
- ◆ Where the award comprises of a single unit, the level of the award must correspond with the level of the unit. Where the award is comprised of more than one unit, more than half the units must be at the level of the award
- ◆ The minimum number of units that an award can contain is one
- ◆ Awards can be any combination of HN Units, SVQ Units, National (Workplace), or National Units
- ◆ There is no limit to the number of units an award can contain
- ◆ The units can be of any credit value

Group Award Specification: Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46), Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46), Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46), Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46), Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46), Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46), Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

Each of the qualifications detailed above consists of one or more mandatory units, each unit consisting of 3 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6. The overall SCQF level of each award is SCQF level 6. Each award fully meets the requirements of the design principles.

Units achieved as part of one group award can contribute to other group awards, for example a learner who achieves GP5A 46 Chainsaw Felling Small Trees (HH4N 46, HH4P 46 and HH4R 46) would only require to complete unit HH53 46 *Clear Multiple Fallen or Windblown Trees* to also achieve GP5E 46 Clear Multiple Windblown Trees. Please note learners undertaking these awards as part of the HCTA CORS scheme would have to achieve any additional units within the period of currency of the awards they already hold (either 3 or 5 years).

3 Aims of the qualifications

The principle aim of this suite of awards is to allow learners to demonstrate that they are suitably trained and qualified in the context of the award or awards they undertake.

3.1 General aims of the qualifications

- ◆ To enhance the learner's employability skills
- ◆ To allow the learner to demonstrate competence in specific vocational skills
- ◆ To create a structure to allow learners to build upon and progress their skills
- ◆ To demonstrate the learner's ability to work safely
- ◆ To provide a progression route to learners who wish to further develop their skills

3.2 Specific aims of the qualifications

- (a) To develop the ability to effectively assess risks and adjust working processes accordingly
- (b) To develop the ability to evaluate a site prior to commencing operations
- (c) To develop an awareness of the individuals competence to carry out specific tasks
- (d) To develop the skills required to safely maintain machinery and equipment
- (e) To develop the knowledge and skills required to minimise environmental impacts
- (f) To develop the knowledge and skills required to safely deal with timber under tension and compression
- (g) To develop the knowledge required to select appropriate equipment for a specific operation
- (h) To develop the knowledge and skills to safely operate a range of tools and equipment

4 Recommended entry to the qualifications

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team as guidance only.

The group awards have been designed to ensure that all learners have received or are in the process of receiving the appropriate training for the specific award they are undertaking.

Any award that requires either the use and/or maintenance of a chainsaw contains the relevant units (*Chainsaw Maintenance* and *Crosscutting Lying Timber*).

The awards in Winch Operations, Powered Pole Saw Operations and Wood Chipper Operations have no specific entry requirements.

Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations requires that the learners are suitably trained and qualified to operate a Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP). The award is designed to cover the safe use of a chainsaw from a MEWP but does not cover the use of the MEWP itself, this must be demonstrated by a suitable qualification, prior to undertaking the award.

Suitable alternative qualifications may be considered however the centre must ensure that the alternative qualification is current and meets or exceeds the requirements of the relevant SQA provision.

There is no official minimum age for a learner to undertake these awards; however the following guidance from the health and safety executive must be taken in to account:

Young workers

A young person is anyone under 18 and a child is anyone who has not yet reached the official minimum school leaving age which may be just before, on, or just after their 16th birthday.

Employers are responsible for ensuring a young person is not exposed to risk due to lack of experience, being unaware of existing or potential risks or a lack of maturity.

You must let the parents/guardians of any child know the key findings of the risk assessment and the control measures put in place before the child starts work or work experience.

Before deciding whether you can employ a young person, you must consider:

- ◆ the layout of the workplace
- ◆ any physical, biological and chemical agents they may be exposed to
- ◆ the work equipment they will use
- ◆ how work activities and processes are organised
- ◆ the need for health and safety training

In health and safety law, students and trainees on work experience are employees. Once you've assessed the risks to them, you must provide them with the same health, safety and welfare protection as other employees.'

Health and Safety Executive 'Chainsaws at Work' INDG317(rev2), published 01/2013.

Group Award Specification: Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46), Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46), Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46), Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46), Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46), Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46), Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information should be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	Level 5	Risk assessment processes and manufacturers guidance/instructions
Numeracy	Level 4	Calculations of tree diameter and felling radius, etc
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Level 4	Online documentation and research
Problem Solving	Level 5	Adapting to circumstances in real working environment
Working with Others	Level 5	Working as part of a team, communication with winch operators and other colleagues, ensuring safety of self and others

5 Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the unit standards with those defined in National Occupational Standards and/or trade/professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skill, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

Code	Unit title	Aims							
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
HH4N 46	Maintain a Chainsaw	X			X				X
HH4P 46	Clear Lying Timber	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
HH4R 46	Fell Small Trees	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
HH4T 46	Fell Large Trees	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
HH4V 46	Clear Individual Fallen or Windblown Trees	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
HH53 46	Clear Multiple Fallen or Windblown Trees	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
HH52 46	Operate a Hand Winch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
HH54 46	Operate a Powered Pole Saw	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
HH55 46	Operate Wood Chippers	X	X	X	X	X			X
HH56 46	Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)	X	X	X		X			X

5.2 Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS)

Code	Unit title	National Occupational Standard									
		CS2	Tw15	Tw19	Tw20	Tw21	Tw22	Tw24	Tw26	Tw29	Tw79
HH4N 46	Maintain a Chainsaw	X		X							
HH4P 46	Clear Lying Timber	X					X				
HH4R 46	Fell Small Trees	X			X						
HH4T 46	Fell Large Trees	X			X						X
HH4V 46	Clear Individual Fallen or Windblown Trees	X				X		X			
HH53 46	Clear Multiple Fallen or Windblown Trees	X				X		X			
HH52 46	Operate a Hand Winch	X									X
HH54 46	Operate a Powered Pole Saw	X							X		
HH55 46	Operate Wood Chippers	X	X								
HH56 46	Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)	X								X	

Group Award Specification: Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46), Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46), Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46), Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46), Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46), Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46), Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

NOS Identifier	Title
LANCS2	Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety
LANTw15	Process Arisings from Tree Operations
LANTw19	Carry Out Routine Maintenance of Chainsaw and Cutting System
LANTw20	Fell Small Trees Using a Chainsaw
LANTw21	Remove Branches from Felled Trees Using a Chainsaw
LANTw22	Cross-Cut Timber Using a Chainsaw
LANTw24	Sever Uprooted or Windblown Trees Using a Chainsaw
LANTw26	Use a Pole Mounted Pruner
LANTw29	Carry Out Aerial Pruning of a Tree
LANTw78	Fell Large Trees Using a Chainsaw

5.3 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualifications

Unit code	Unit title	Communication		Numeracy		ICT		Problem Solving			Working with Others	
		Written	Oral	Using Number	Using Graphical Information	Accessing Information	Providing/Creating Information	Critical Thinking	Planning and Organising	Reviewing and Evaluating	Working Co-operatively with Others	Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
HH4N 46	Maintain a Chainsaw	X	X			X		X	X			
HH4P 46	Clear Lying Timber	X	X			X		X	X		X	
HH4R 46	Fell Small Trees	X	X					X	X		X	
HH4T 46	Fell Large Trees	X	X					X	X		X	
HH4V 46	Clear Individual Fallen or Windblown Trees	X	X					X	X		X	
HH53 46	Clear Multiple Fallen or Windblown Trees	X	X					X	X		X	
HH52 46	Operate a Hand Winch	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	
HH54 46	Operate a Powered Pole Saw	X	X			X		X	X			
HH55 46	Operate Wood Chippers	X	X			X		X	X			
HH56 46	Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)	X	X			X		X	X		X	

Group Award Specification: Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46), Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46), Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46), Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46), Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46), Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46), Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

5.4 Assessment strategy for the qualifications

Unit	Assessment			
	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4
Maintain a Chainsaw	Identification exercise	Direct observation	Identification exercise and direct observation	Direct observation
Clear Lying Timber	Product evidence (risk assessment) and direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation
Fell Small Trees	Product evidence (risk assessment) and direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation
Fell Large Trees	Product evidence (risk assessment) and direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation
Clear Individual Fallen or Windblown Trees	Product evidence (risk assessment) and direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation	
Clear Multiple Fallen or Windblown Trees	Product evidence (risk assessment) and direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation	
Operate a Hand Winch	Product evidence (risk assessment) and direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation	
Operate a Powered Pole Saw	Product evidence (risk assessment) and direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation	
Operate Wood Chippers	Direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation	
Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)	Direct observation	Direct observation	Direct observation	

Group Award Specification: Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46), Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46), Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46), Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46), Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46), Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46), Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

6 Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

The primary purpose of these awards is to allow the learner to demonstrate they are suitably trained and qualified to safely carry out the activities covered by the award. They provide a flexible set of qualifications that allow recognition of a range of levels of responsibility including the size and/or number of trees to be felled/cleared and the range of equipment that can safely be operated. Each award will allow the successful learner to apply for the equivalent license from the Highways and Construction Training Association (HCTA) through their Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme (CORS).

6.1 Sequencing/integration of units

The delivery sequence of units within a particular award will to some extent be dictated by environmental and site conditions which will determine if and when it is safe to carry out certain activities. However, in order to comply with legal requirements and to ensure the health and safety of the learner and others units must be delivered in an appropriate sequence. For example in the Chainsaw Felling Large Trees award, units *Maintain a Chainsaw*, *Clear Lying Timber* and *Felling Small Trees* must be undertaken before unit *Felling Large Trees* to ensure the learner is appropriately trained to undertake the requirements of the latter unit.

There may be opportunities, where it is safe to do so, to integrate some aspects of the delivery and assessment of various units. For example there may be a naturally occurring opportunity in Outcome 2 'Undertake routine chainsaw maintenance' of unit *Maintain a Chainsaw* to integrate with unit *Clear Lying Timber* Outcome 4 Performance Criteria (i) 'Ensure chainsaw and other equipment is left in a well maintained condition when operations are complete'.

6.2 Recognition of prior learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full group award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full group award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of units and assessments:

- ◆ HN Graded Units
- ◆ Course and/or external assessments
- ◆ Other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded)
- ◆ Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit
- ◆ Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice
- ◆ Where there are specific health and safety requirements
- ◆ Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements
- ◆ Where otherwise specified in an assessment strategy

Group Award Specification: Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46), Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46), Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46), Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46), Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46), Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46), Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk.

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA unit(s) may contribute to this group award. Additionally, they also outline how this group award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

These qualifications have been designed to allow the learner to build upon individual units and separate group awards to further develop their professional competence. Once learners have completed units HH4N 46 *Maintain a Chainsaw* and HH4P 46 *Clear Lying Timber*, which will provide them with the basic chainsaw skills, they can undertake specific Units to expand the range and scope of tasks they can undertake.

The table below indicates how the various individual units contribute to each separate group award.

Award/unit	Maintain a Chainsaw	Clear Lying Timber	Fell Small Trees	Fell Large Trees	Clear Individual Fallen or Windblown Trees	Clear Multiple Fallen or Windblown Trees	Operate a Hand Winch	Operate a Powered Pole Saw	Operate a Wood Chipper	Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform
Chainsaw Maintenance and Use	X	X								
Chainsaw Felling Small Trees	X	X	X							
Chainsaw Felling Large Trees	X	X	X	X						
Clear Individual Windblown Trees	X	X	X		X					
Clear Multiple Windblown Trees	X	X	X			X				
Hand Winch Operations	X	X					X			
Powered Pole Saw Operations								X		
Wood Chipper Operations									X	
Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP) Limbing Operations	X	X								X

Group Award Specification: Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46), Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46), Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46), Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46), Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46), Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46), Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

6.2.2 Professional recognition

These qualifications have been specifically designed to provide the learner with the knowledge and skills required for the Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme (CORS) administered by the Highways and Construction Training Association (HCTA). Successful completion of a qualification will allow the learner to apply for registration for the relevant area on the CORS scheme, for either 3 or 5 years. Details of the scheme and how to apply are available from:

<http://www.hcta.co.uk/cors.htm>

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

The units contained within these awards are all of a highly practical nature and as such do not lend themselves to e-assessment. There may be limited opportunities for e-assessment such as Outcome 1 of unit *Maintain a Chainsaw* where e-assessment could be used for the identification exercise, however for health and safety reasons all practical assessments must take place under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified assessor. An e-portfolio could be used to organise and retain the learner's evidence across units and group awards.

6.4 Resource requirements

Unit	Resource requirements
Maintain a Chainsaw	This unit may be undertaken in workshop conditions or on-site. A chainsaw with a guide bar length of at least 300mm and a selection of suitable tools, equipment and PPE to carry out the performances listed is to be available. The operator's manual must also be available.
Clear Lying Timber	This unit is to be undertaken on site where lying timber and suitable conditions are available. A serviceable chainsaw with a minimum guide bar length of 300mm, maintenance tools and appropriate PPE.
Fell Small Trees	This unit is to be undertaken on site where suitable trees and conditions are available. It is expected that a minimum of three trees be identified to ensure all techniques are assessed. A chainsaw with a minimum guide bar length of 300mm, felling aids (wedges/felling bar/hammer) and appropriate maintenance tools are to be available. At least one tree should be felled to provide a hung-up tree.
Fell Large Trees	This unit may only be undertaken on-site. A chainsaw with a guide bar length of at least 300mm and a selection of suitable tools, equipment and PPE to carry out the performances listed is to be available. It is anticipated that unit HH52 46 <i>Operate a Hand Winch</i> would also be undertaken along with this unit. A suitable tree identified for felling of a diameter more than the guide bar length but not more than one and half its length.
Clear Individual Fallen or Windblown Trees	This unit may be delivered and assessed on-site in a live situation or at a location where suitable windblown trees exist. A suitable chainsaw and equipment with an operator's manual and PPE to carry out the performances listed is to be available. Appropriate signs should be made available to warn of the danger area.

Group Award Specification: Award in Chainsaw Maintenance and Use at SCQF level 6 (GP5C 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Small Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5A 46), Award in Chainsaw Felling Large Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP59 46), Award in Clear Individual Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5D 46), Award in Clear Multiple Windblown Trees at SCQF level 6 (GP5E 46), Award in Hand Winch Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5F 46), Award in Powered Pole Saw Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5H 46), Award in Wood Chipper Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5J 46), Award in Mobile Elevated Working Platform Limbing Operations at SCQF level 6 (GP5G 46)

Unit	Resource requirements
Clear Multiple Fallen or Windblown Trees	This unit is undertaken on-site. A chainsaw with a guide bar length of at least 300mm and a selection of suitable tools, equipment and PPE to carry out the performances listed is to be available. At least three interwoven windblown trees are to be available with a minimum diameter of 300mm, one of which should be hung-up on another tree. Where such a site does not present itself, the assessor may set up such a site in order that the learner can demonstrate the performances required.
Operate a Hand Winch	A working winch; strops; shackles; winch ropes; hung up trees; chainsaws and PPE to carry out the performances listed is to be available. The winch and accessories are to have an in-date certificate of thorough examination in accordance with current Regulations. An assistant and/or banksman should be available as required.
Operate a Powered Pole Saw	A working powered pole saw (and spare), tools and equipment and PPE to carry out the performances listed are to be available. The site must contain a suitable quantity of trees to work on. Maintenance may be carried out on-site or suitable workshop conditions.
Operate Wood Chippers	This unit is undertaken on-site. A working chipper, material and PPE to carry out the performances listed are to be available.
Carry Out Limbing Operations from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)	A working MEWP, chainsaw and PPE to carry out operations is to be available. The site must contain suitable trees to work on to enable learners to demonstrate the performances given. Equipment and fall arrest equipment must have a recent certificate of thorough examination/inspection available.

6.5 Use of simulation

Given the highly practical nature of these awards it is crucial that learners are given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in a realistic working environment to learn how to adjust to a varied environment, conditions and restrictions. There may be circumstances where it is not possible, safe or practical to make use of naturally occurring opportunities to develop evidence, for example where multiple hung-up trees are required. In such circumstances a degree of simulation would be acceptable; however every effort should be made to ensure conditions mirror likely real working conditions as far as possible.

The following extract from the Lantra Assessment Strategy (December 2015) provides additional guidance:

- ◆ All simulations must be planned, developed and documented by the centre in a way that ensures the simulation correctly reflects what the standard seeks to assess
- ◆ The physical environment for the simulation must be as realistic as possible, reflecting industry working practices and drawing on real resources that would be used in the industry
- ◆ The simulation must also reflect the same pressures and time constraints that might apply in the workplace
- ◆ Simulations can only be used to supplement real work activities and should not be the only source of evidence used to indicate competence

Where there is any doubt around realistic working environments or the use of simulation advice should be sought from an SQA external verifier.

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7 General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The unit specifications making up this group award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will 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.

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this/these qualification(s) should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment* (www.sqa.org.uk/GuideToAssessment).

8 Glossary of terms

CORS: Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme

Embedded Core Skills: is where the assessment evidence for the unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification)

Finish date: The end of a group award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the group award will no longer be live and the following applies:

- ◆ learners may not be entered for the group award
- ◆ the group award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS)

HCTA: Highways and Construction Training Association

Lapsing date: When a group award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- ◆ the group award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue
- ◆ the group award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived
- ◆ no new centres may be approved to offer the group award
- ◆ centres should only enter learners whom they expect to complete the group award during the defined lapsing period

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a unit gives an indication of the contribution the unit makes to an SQA group award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8 respectively. Higher National Units will normally be at levels 6–9 and Graded Units will be at level 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2–6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2–7.

Subject unit: Subject units contain vocational/subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

MEWP: Mobile Elevated Working Platform

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up to date qualification structure.

NOTE: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- ◆ No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.
- ◆ Centres should only enter learners for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version number	Description	Date

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of this qualification.

9 General information for learners

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

If you are a chainsaw operator or wish to work in a sector that requires you to use a chainsaw one or more of these qualifications may be suitable for you.

Each qualification has been designed to allow you to demonstrate that you are suitably trained and qualified to undertake a specific operation or operations. The areas covered are as follows:

- ◆ Chainsaw Maintenance and Use
- ◆ Chainsaw Felling Small Trees
- ◆ Chainsaw Felling Large Trees
- ◆ Clear Individual Windblown Trees
- ◆ Clear Multiple Windblown Trees
- ◆ Hand Winch Operations
- ◆ Powered Pole Saw Operations
- ◆ Wood Chipper Operations
- ◆ Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP) Limbing Operations

These are practical qualifications, in order to achieve them you will be required to demonstrate that you can safely and effectively demonstrate the required skills in a real working environment. In addition to the practical skills you will also be assessed on the knowledge that underpins these skills. For example you will be required to identify and state the purpose of a range of chainsaw components in addition to being able to remove, clean, maintain and replace them.

The various qualifications all consist of one or more units, these units and qualification can be taken in various combinations depending on the type of work you are required to undertake and the types of equipment you are required to use. Your centre will be able to advise you on the most suitable qualifications to undertake depending on the type of work you will be involved in.

These qualifications would be suitable for you if you are working or seeking work as:

- ◆ Term maintenance contractors
- ◆ Local authority grounds maintenance staff
- ◆ Emergency workers on highways

While many of the skills covered by these qualifications will be shared with those from the forestry and arboriculture sector they have not been designed for those sectors, as they do not have a particular focus on the end of use of the trees/timber.

On successful completion of an award you will be able to apply for the corresponding recognition from the Chainsaw Operators Registration Scheme (CORS), which will allow you to demonstrate your competence to employers and others.

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