

Occupation Profile

for

Agriculture

Modern Apprenticeship

at SCQF Level 5

Approved by: Land use Technical Expert Group

Approved date: March 2026



Purpose:

This document consists of the occupational standards (NOS and Unit Specifications) routinely carried out in Agriculture roles. This provides all the performance requirements and knowledge and understanding requirements apprentices need to demonstrate competence in the occupation.

This document includes:

- 1 mandatory NOS and 3 mandatory unit specifications
- 11 optional NOS
- 15 optional unit specifications

Apprentices must achieve **11** occupational standards.



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Mandatory Occupational Standards

Contributing to performing work activities

Maintaining health, safety and security

Developing an awareness of environmental good practice

Goal of Unit Specification:

To contribute to safely preparing, implementing and closing down work activities to meet organisational procedures and legislative requirements

Brief outline:

This involves accessing and interpreting basic work information, checking work activities, contributing to developing risk assessments, using personal protective equipment (PPE), communicating with others, completing documentation and dealing with issues and closing down the work in accordance with technical specifications, instructions and organisational procedures.

Performance requirements

1. Accessing and interpreting relevant information required to carry out your work activities
2. Checking work activities before commencing to confirm these are required
3. Contributing to the development of risk assessments associated with own work activities in accordance with organisational procedures
4. Identifying and using the correct PPE in accordance with manufacturers' guidance
5. Contributing to maintaining safety and security of tools and equipment in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines and organisational procedures
6. Communicating relevant safety and work-related information with others in accordance with organisational procedures
7. Contributing to work activities in accordance with organisational procedures
8. Contributing to completing and storing all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational procedures
9. Dealing effectively with issues within the scope and limitations of your own responsibilities in accordance with organisational procedures
10. Reporting issues which are outside the scope and limitations of your responsibilities in accordance with organisational procedures
11. Contributing to disposing of waste in accordance with legislative requirements and organisational procedures

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Required information for your work activities and where to locate this
2. Rules, regulations, legislative requirements, business and professional ethics relevant to your working practice and to which you must adhere including access rights
3. Who to confirm your work activities with and why this is important
4. The importance of risk assessment and mitigation as relevant to own area of work
5. The importance of, and correct use of any required equipment and PPE
6. The duty to report any acts and omissions that could have a negative impact on yourself, others and your organisation
7. Principles of workplace sustainability and how to apply them
8. Principles of environmental good practice and how to apply them
9. Why it is important to maintain the safety and security of tools and equipment
10. Methods of communication and how to apply these
11. Digital technology used within own area of work and how to use this
12. Organisational procedures for completing and securely storing documentation
13. Scope and limitations of your own competence, responsibilities and accountability
14. Organisational procedures for reporting issues which cannot be solved
15. Organisational procedures for disposing of waste

Unit Specification

URN: US0203

Maintaining health, safety and security

Goal of Unit Specification

To maintain health, safety and security in line with legislative and organisation procedures to protect yourself and others from the risk of harm and injury.

Brief outline:

This is about maintaining the health, safety and security of yourself and others who may be affected by your work. This involves following set health and safety procedures and identifying unsafe situations in the workplace and during work activities. This also involves understanding the main risks to health, safety and security in the workplace and the using control measures and safe systems of work put in place. In the event of incidents and emergencies required procedures must be followed.

Security could include land, buildings, equipment and machinery, stock, resources, personnel and information.

Performance requirements

1. Identifying hazards and assessing risks to health, safety and security when carrying out your work
2. Taking required actions in response to identified hazards and risks in line with organisation procedures
3. Complying with control measures put in place to eliminate and to reduce risks and adopting safe systems of work
4. Using clothing and PPE suitable to carry out activities
5. Checking PPE regularly and in accordance with manufacturers' instructions
6. Following organisation security procedures to prevent risks to security
7. Preparing, using, maintaining and storing equipment and machinery in accordance with relevant legislation, manufacturers' instructions and organisation requirements
8. Recording and reporting health, safety and security information in accordance with legal and organisation requirements

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. The relevant legal responsibilities of employers and employees for health and safety and the importance of following these
2. The difference between "hazard" and "risk", the importance of identifying hazards and assessing risks to yourself and others when carrying out your work, and what action to take when hazards are identified
3. Where to locate organisation risk assessments and why these should be followed
4. The particular hazards associated with your work, which could include personal injury, contracting disease and other physical and mental health problems
5. The effects that work-related accidents and ill health can have on workers and businesses and the importance of minimising these
6. The measures that can be used to control risks
7. The importance of good housekeeping in the workplace in maintaining health and safety
8. The importance of following procedures to maintain workplace security

9. Key requirements of the regulations relating to the handling, use and storage of chemicals and hazardous substances
10. Safe methods of checking, preparing, using, maintaining and storing equipment and machinery
11. Risks of injury associated with lifting and handling and how these can be minimised
12. Suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) required for work in your industry and the importance of regularly checking and maintaining PPE
13. Risks of working in isolation, in remote locations or potentially dangerous situations and the need for safe systems of work to be followed including communication and emergency procedures
14. Actions to take in the event of incidents and emergencies including accidents and near misses
15. Legislative and organisational requirements for recording and reporting on health, safety and security issues and matters



Optional National Occupational Standards

A minimum of **seven** optional standards must be achieved, these can be selected from both the optional National Occupational Standards and the optional Unit Specifications.

Carry out and complete the shearing of livestock

Deliver basic treatments to livestock

Monitor and maintain livestock during pregnancy

Monitor and maintain the care of livestock during and after parturition

Implement the application of nutrients to crops

Monitor and maintain the healthy growth of crops

Prepare and cultivate sites ready for planting crops

Maintain and repair structures

Prepare and operate a powered vehicle

Prepare and operate a tractor

Survey and report on the condition of the environment



Optional Unit Specifications

A minimum of **seven** optional standards must be achieved, these can be selected from both the optional National Occupational Standards and the optional Unit Specifications.

Feeding livestock

Grazing livestock

Loading and unloading animals for transportation

Maintaining livestock accommodation

Milking livestock

Moving livestock

Planting crops and plants

Transporting harvested crops and plants

Storing harvested crops and plants

Creating and maintaining habitats

Maintaining equipment and machinery

Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity

Maintaining site infrastructure and assets

Receiving goods and supplies

Using equipment and machinery

Goal of Unit:

To provide livestock with suitable feed and water to meet their needs, legal requirements and organisational production requirements.

Brief outline:

This is about providing livestock with feed and water required for their health, welfare and growth to meet legal requirements, production requirements and organisational procedures. This involves maintaining stocks of feed, preparing and providing correct types and amounts of feed in line with livestock dietary plans, providing access to clean water, monitoring feed and water intake and cleaning and maintaining equipment used to provide feed and water.

Performance requirements

1. Cleaning and maintaining equipment used to supply feed and water to livestock in accordance with organisational procedures
2. Maintaining stocks of feed in accordance with feeding plan requirements and organisational procedures
3. Monitoring and reporting on storage of feed stocks in accordance with organisational procedures
4. Preparing and supplying feed to livestock in accordance with livestock dietary plans
5. Providing sufficient drinking water to meet livestock and legal requirements
6. Providing livestock with required medication and supplementary feed in accordance with livestock dietary plans
7. Monitoring livestock feeding and drinking habits in accordance with livestock needs and organisational procedures
8. Monitoring livestock health and welfare to identify signs of sickness and injury in accordance with organisational procedures
9. Maintaining communication with others involved in feeding livestock using relevant communication methods in accordance with organisational procedures
10. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity in accordance with organisational requirements

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Requirements of relevant animal health and welfare standards, industry codes of practice, quality assurance requirements and specific requirements for providing feed and water to livestock
2. Methods of cleaning and maintaining equipment used to provide feed and water to livestock, and how to check systems used are in full working order
3. Type of storage facilities and conditions required for storage of livestock feed being used
4. The importance of feeding plans
5. Methods of preventing damage and contamination to livestock feed and water, signs of pests and vermin and actions to take when these are found
6. Type, quality and quantity of feed needed to meet livestock requirements and feeding plans
7. Differences in feeding systems available for housed and unhoused livestock
8. The carcass grading system and why this is important
9. How body condition and conformation of animals (achieved by breeding programs) relates to their target growth, development and purpose

- 11. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
- 12. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

- 10. Differences between organic and low input systems and when to use them
- 11. Carbon footprint of different feeds and why this is important
- 12. The importance of maintaining required stock levels of feed and why stock is rotated
- 13. Expected feed and water intake of livestock being monitored and what is indicated by changes in feeding and drinking habits
- 14. Methods for preparing and supplying feed to livestock, including young stock
- 15. The cleanliness, quality and quantity of drinking water needed to meet livestock requirements and different methods of supplying water to livestock
- 16. Different types of medication and supplementary feed used, the purpose of these and how they can be provided via feed and water
- 17. The importance of monitoring livestock behaviour during feeding and watering for signs of sickness and injury including actions to take
- 18. The importance of maintaining communication with others involved in feeding livestock and how to do this
- 19. Specific requirements for maintaining effective hygiene and biosecurity
- 20. Why it is important to maintain the safety and security of machinery and equipment on site and how to do this
- 21. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Goal of Unit:

To graze livestock safely and securely to meet their needs for feed, water and good nutrition.

Brief outline:

This is about checking grazing land is safe, secure and provides required feed and water for livestock to graze. This involves assessing safety and suitability of land for grazing livestock, checking availability of suitable drinking water, turning out livestock onto grazing land, monitoring livestock to check their welfare, monitoring for feed and water depletion, and bringing in livestock.

Performance requirements

1. Assessing the quality and suitability of land for the introduction of livestock grazing in accordance with livestock requirements
2. Checking vegetation to identify any that is poisonous to livestock being grazed and taking relevant actions in accordance with relevant guidelines and organisational procedures
3. Improving the quality of land to support livestock grazing in accordance with organisational procedures
4. Checking boundaries and gates are secure to maintain safety of livestock in accordance with safety and security requirements and organisational procedures
5. Checking there is a sufficient supply of suitable drinking water to meet livestock requirements in accordance with grazing requirements and organisational procedures
6. Moving livestock onto grazing land safely in accordance with grazing requirements and organisational procedures
7. Checking livestock welfare on grazing land meets animal health and welfare standards and taking relevant actions where there are issues in accordance with organisational procedures
8. Monitoring conditions of grazing land and water supplies to take relevant actions in accordance with organisational procedures
9. Bringing in livestock from grazing land safely in accordance with organisational procedures

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Requirements of relevant guidelines relating to animal health and welfare standards and industry codes of practice
2. Different types of grasses and forage crops used for livestock grazing, how to monitor growth and recognise when they are ready to support grazing
3. Actions taken to maintain and improve land quality land to support livestock grazing
4. How conditions and quality of grazing land affects numbers of animals kept there
5. Types of vegetation that are poisonous to livestock being grazed and how to recognise and safely deal with them
6. The importance clean grazing has in preventing parasitic infections
7. Different methods of providing water for livestock on grazing land and the importance of using suitable water supplies
8. Suitability of different types of fencing, boundaries and gates for grazing land
9. Methods of turning out livestock into regular and new grazing areas and how to handle and move livestock
10. Potential hazards which occur in moving, turning out and catching livestock

- 10. Completing grazing records in accordance with legal requirements and organisational procedures
- 11. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
- 12. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

- 11. How often to check welfare of livestock on grazing land and actions to take where there are issues
- 12. How often to check conditions of grazing land and water supply depending on the time of year and weather, and actions to take where food and water are depleted
- 13. Group behaviour of livestock being kept and how to introduce animals into established groups
- 14. Methods to use when catching and bringing in livestock
- 15. Legal requirements and organisational procedures for completing grazing records

Unit Specification

Loading and unloading animals for transportation

URN: SDS 0400

Goal of Unit:

To load and unload animals safely before and after transportation to meet animal needs, legal requirements and organisational procedures.

Brief outline:

This is about preparing and loading animals into required transportation equipment and unloading them at the end of journeys. This involves checking transportation equipment and loading areas are prepared, checking animals are fit to be transported, loading, establishing them and unloading them at destinations.

Performance requirements

1. Checking equipment being used for transportation is prepared, ready to receive animals in accordance with legal requirements and organisation procedures
2. Checking loading areas are prepared, safe and secure in accordance with needs and requirements of animals being transported
3. Checking the health and fitness of animals being transported and taking relevant actions for problems in accordance with legal requirements and organisational procedures
4. Preparing animals for transportation in accordance with animal health and welfare requirements
5. Loading animals into required transportation equipment using suitable handling methods to minimise stress and risk of injury whilst maintaining legal requirements for stocking density
6. Securing animals in transportation equipment to maintain their safety and welfare during transportation
7. Maintaining communication with others involved in animal transportation using relevant communication methods in accordance with organisational procedures
8. Unloading animals from transportation using suitable handling methods to minimise stress and risk of injury
9. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity in accordance with organisation procedures

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Requirements of animal health and welfare standards, animal transport legislation and industry codes of practice for transporting animals
2. Equipment required for animals being transported and how to prepare this
3. Risks inherent in transporting animals and how to minimise these
4. How loading areas should be prepared for animals being transported to ensure their health and well-being, safety and security
5. How to assess the fitness of animals being transported, conditions that exclude them from transportation and consequences of transporting unfit animals
6. How animals being transported need to be prepared for transportation to optimise their health and welfare
7. How to establish and secure animals in transportation equipment and legal requirements for stocking density
8. Importance of maintaining communication with others involved in the transportation and how to do this
9. Suitable methods to be used when handling, loading and unloading animals which minimise their stress and risk of injury

- 10. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
- 11. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

- 10. Importance of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity when transporting animals and methods for achieving this
- 11. Legal requirements and organisational procedures for completing transportation documentation and records
- 12. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
- 13. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Goal of Unit:

To provide suitable and safe accommodation to meet livestock needs and welfare requirements.

Brief outline:

This is about providing accommodation for livestock (dairy, beef, sheep and pigs) which meets their needs and welfare requirements in accordance with relevant animal health and welfare and other specific requirements. This involves preparing and cleaning suitable and safe accommodation, providing suitable bedding, feed and water and monitoring health and welfare of livestock in accommodation.

Performance requirements

1. Preparing suitable accommodation for livestock being housed in accordance with legal requirements and organisational procedures
2. Checking accommodation to ensure safety in accordance with legal requirements and organisational procedures
3. Cleaning accommodation in accordance legal requirements and organisational procedures
4. Providing clean bedding suitable for livestock being housed in accordance legal requirements and organisational procedures
5. Providing suitable feed and water for livestock being housed in accordance with legal requirements and organisational procedures
6. Providing and maintaining required environmental conditions for livestock being housed in accordance with environmental requirements and organisational procedures
7. Establishing livestock into accommodation safely in accordance with organisational procedures
8. Monitoring livestock in accommodation to check their health and welfare in accordance with legal requirements and organisational procedures

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Legal requirements of relevant animal health and welfare standards, industry codes of practice, specific requirements and organisational procedures
2. Types and sizes of accommodation suitable for livestock being housed and how this varies at different production cycle stages
3. Correct stocking densities and space requirements for livestock being housed, in line with relevant regulations and codes of practice
4. The importance of checking accommodation safety and presence of hazards
5. Equipment and materials required for preparing the accommodation for livestock and how to use these
6. Cleaning routines for livestock accommodation appropriate to livestock being housed and type of accommodation
7. Types of bedding required for livestock being housed, the importance of clean bedding and how often bedding should be changed
8. Equipment required for providing feed and water for livestock in accommodation
9. Environmental conditions required in accommodation to maintain health and welfare of livestock being housed and how these conditions can be controlled

9. Maintaining communication with others involved in maintaining livestock accommodation using relevant communication methods
10. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity in accordance with organisational procedures
11. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
12. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

10. Methods of establishing livestock within accommodation which minimise stress and optimise acceptance
11. Methods of monitoring livestock in accommodation, how to recognise healthy livestock and signs of ill-health, and actions to take
12. The importance of maintaining communication with others involved in maintaining livestock accommodation and how to do this
13. Organisational procedures for maintaining effective hygiene and biosecurity
14. Why it is important to maintain communication with others involved in the work and how to do this
15. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
16. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Goal of Unit:

To milk livestock to meet required legal requirements and organisational standards.

Brief outline:

This is about milking livestock. This involves preparing areas where milking will take place (usually referred to as milking parlours), preparing livestock to be milked including checking their health and suitability for milking, carrying out the milking process, dealing with any unsuitable milk and washing down equipment and milking parlours after use. The term livestock is used to cover cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats.

Performance requirements

1. Checking livestock to ensure they are healthy before milking in accordance with milking requirements
2. Positioning livestock correctly in milking parlours ready for milking in accordance with organisational procedures
3. Preparing udders for milking, checking they are in clean, healthy and hygienic in accordance with organisational procedures
4. Taking required actions where signs of mastitis are identified in accordance with organisational procedures
5. Attaching units correctly for milking in accordance with instructions for equipment being used
6. Checking and monitoring equipment prior to and during milking processes to ensure operations are in accordance with manufacturers' guidance and organisational procedures
7. Removing units when milk flow ceases and applying treatments after milking in accordance with hygiene requirements and organisational procedures
8. Checking the quality of milk produced to confirm it is free from contamination
9. Identifying and dealing with milk unsuitable for human consumption in accordance with food safety standards

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Requirements of animal health and welfare standards, industry codes of practice and other specific requirements for milking livestock
2. The importance of meeting relevant food safety and industry quality assurance standards
3. Type of milking parlour being used including equipment required for milking and how to use this
4. How to recognise healthy livestock and the action to be taken where signs of ill health are detected
5. Reasons for, and different methods of, feeding livestock during milking
6. Correct positioning of livestock within the milking area
7. Ways in which livestock respond to your behaviour and safe methods of handling difficult livestock
8. Methods of preparing udders for milking to include cleaning and pre-milking checks and how to recognise signs of mastitis
9. Problems that can be encountered when milking livestock and how to resolve these
10. How to monitor operations of milking equipment

10. Dealing with livestock producing milk unsuitable for human consumption in accordance with legal requirements and organisational procedures
11. Washing down parlours after use leaving work areas and equipment in correct conditions for future use in accordance with hygiene requirements and organisational procedures
12. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity in accordance with organisational requirements
13. Completing milking records in accordance with organisational requirements
14. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
15. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role
11. Ways of identifying and dealing with livestock that are producing milk unsuitable for human consumption, reasons why such milk must be discarded and procedures for disposal
12. Treatments that are applied to livestock on completion of milking procedures
13. Methods and importance of testing milk, ways in which milk can be contaminated and methods for preventing this
14. How to wash down milking parlours
15. The importance of maintaining communication with others involved in milking livestock and how to do this
16. Organisational procedures for maintaining effective hygiene and biosecurity
17. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
18. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Goal of Unit:

To move livestock safely to required destinations.

Brief outline:

This is about moving livestock to required destinations in accordance with livestock requirements and organisational procedures. This involves checking destinations are ready to receive livestock, checking livestock are fit to be moved, checking methods and routes, moving livestock safely without causing stress and establishing livestock at their destination. Destinations include: moving from field to field, from field to milking parlours and indoor accommodation, for shearing, foot trimming and other procedures, and to be loaded and transported.

Performance requirements

1. Checking destinations are prepared and ready to receive livestock in accordance with organisational procedures
2. Checking methods and routes have been planned and are suitable for moving livestock in accordance with organisational procedures
3. Checking required people are available to assist with moving livestock in accordance with organisational procedures
4. Preparing equipment to assist with handling and moving livestock in accordance with manufacturers' guidance
5. Checking livestock health to ensure they are fit for moving
6. Handling livestock to minimise stress and injury and maintain their health and welfare
7. Monitoring livestock as they are moved to identify and resolve problems in accordance with organisational procedures
8. Maintaining communication with others involved in moving livestock using relevant communication methods
9. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity in accordance with organisational procedures

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Requirements of relevant animal health and welfare standards, industry codes of practice, quality assurance requirements and specific requirements for moving livestock
2. Why it is important that all aspects of the movement process are planned, and destinations are prepared and ready to receive livestock
3. Risks inherent in moving livestock and how to minimise these
4. The importance of checking the health status of livestock prior to being moved and how this affects movement
5. Tools and equipment used to assist with handling and moving livestock and how to use these
6. How to handle and move livestock safely to destinations
7. How to recognise normal and abnormal behaviour in livestock, factors that cause stress and how to minimise these
8. Contingency plans that need to be in place when moving livestock
9. The importance of maintaining communication with others involved in moving livestock and how to do this
10. How to establish livestock at their destination once they have been moved

10. Establishing livestock at their destination in accordance with specific requirements and organisational procedures
 11. Completing movement records in accordance with organisational procedures
 12. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
 13. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role
11. Organisational procedures for maintaining effective hygiene and biosecurity
 12. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
 13. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Goal of Unit:

To plant crops and plants in accordance with site specifications to meet site planting requirements.

Brief outline:

This is about planning and establishing crops and plants, which includes cereals, energy, trees, shrubs, fruit, vegetables, flowers. Planting methods will depend on crop and plant types being grown and conditions required for growth. Growing media includes soil, hydroponics, matting, compost and other growing media. This covers protected conditions and outdoors in the open. Plant material include bulbs, seeds, shots, tubers, cuttings. This involves site clearing and cultivating ready for planting, preparing plant material for planting, preparing equipment, planting crops and plants and providing aftercare and protection.

Note: Individuals may be working with crops or plants or both.

Performance requirements

1. Preparing and using required planting tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with manufacturers' instructions
2. Clearing sites to meet requirements of crops and plants in accordance with site operating procedures
3. Preparing and cultivating sites to meet site requirements and planting specifications
4. Cultivating sites to meet site and planting requirements
5. Checking any growing media is prepared and in suitable conditions for planting in accordance with site operating procedures
6. Preparing planting material ready for planting in accordance with planting specifications and site operating procedures
7. Positioning planting material consistently across sites in accordance with site operating procedures and planting specifications

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with legal requirements and the manufacturers' instructions
2. Different methods for clearing and preparing sites for planting
3. Principles of tillage and how to do this
4. The importance of planting plans
5. Methods used to cultivate sites and effects that soil type, climate, weather, ground conditions, previous treatments, existing structures and systems will have
6. Site drainage requirements
7. How to identify weeds, moss, pests, diseases and unwanted vegetation and what action to take
8. Appropriate methods for sterilising sites and when this is required
9. Optimum conditions required for planting and the importance of timing

8. Providing plant aftercare and protection requirements in accordance with site operating procedures and planting specifications
9. Cleaning down equipment and machinery after use and storing for future use in accordance with site operating procedures
10. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity during collection, storage and establishment of propagation material in accordance with site operating procedures
11. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
12. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role
10. The role of crop rotation where appropriate when establishing crops or plants
11. How to check that materials are suitable for planting, problems that may occur, including pests and diseases, and what actions to take
12. Methods used to prepare planting material
13. Factors that must be taken into consideration during planting, such as seed treatments, the addition of slug pellets or fertiliser
14. Principles of marking and setting out and how to do this
15. The inter-relationship between density, depth, orientation, plant spacing and row widths
16. When planting, what is best for different crops and plants and different sites and why this is the case
17. Requirements for even distribution of seeds and how to achieve required ratios during sowing
18. Initial maintenance requirements to ensure effective establishment of crops or plants
19. Factors affecting rates and percentages of seed germination and how this can be increased
20. Types of aftercare required and their purpose, including non-chemical alternatives to protect against pests and diseases
21. Methods of support and protection and how to apply them
22. Legal and organisational requirements for dealing with waste and surplus materials
23. The importance of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity and methods for achieving this
24. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
25. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Unit Specification

Transporting harvested crops and plants

URN: SDS 0351

Goal of Unit:

To transport harvested crops and plants to their destination to meet specifications and site operating procedures.

Brief outline:

This is about transporting harvested crops and plants to their required destination which includes storage facilities on and off site, and direct to customers. This involves loading, securing and transporting crops and plants. Individuals using vehicles and mechanical equipment for transportation must be trained and hold the required current certification. When transporting on public highways individuals must hold appropriate driver and vehicle licenses.

Performance requirements

1. Preparing and using required tools, equipment, machinery and personal protective equipment (PPE) in line with manufacturers' instructions to transport harvested crops and plants
2. Completing training and certification required for transportation equipment used to move crops and plants in accordance with organisational procedures and manufacturers' instructions
3. Checking ground conditions are suitable for transportation equipment in accordance with site operating procedures
4. Monitoring effects of transportation equipment on soil structure in accordance with site operating procedures
5. Loading, unloading and securing harvested crops and plants for transport in accordance with specifications and site operating procedures protect them from loss, damage and contamination during transportation
6. Operating transportation equipment to move crops and plants to required destinations in accordance with specifications and site operating procedures
7. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity during crop and plant transportation in accordance with site operating procedures
8. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
9. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with legal requirements and manufacturers' instructions
2. The importance of following required specifications and site operating procedures when transporting harvested crops and plants
3. Relevant legal requirements, licences, certification, codes of practice, site and organisational requirements for using transportation equipment
4. How to check ground condition suitability for transportation
5. How to load, secure and protect harvested crops and plants for transit to maintain load safety and minimise loss and damage
6. How to monitor load conditions of load during transit
7. The importance of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity and methods for achieving this
8. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
9. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Unit Specification

Storing harvested crops and plants

URN: SDS 0350

Goal of Unit:

To store harvested crops and plants for sale and for use in accordance with product specifications.

Brief outline:

This is about storing harvested crops and plants which includes on and off-site storage. This involves preparing storage facilities, storing and monitoring and maintaining crops and plants in accordance with product specifications and site operating procedures . This covers indoor and outdoor storage as well as temperature-controlled storage. The harvested materials include crops and plants.

Performance requirements

1. Preparing harvesting storage facilities, in accordance with product specifications and site operating procedures
2. Carrying out measures to prevent risks of contamination by pests and disease, in accordance with product specifications and site operating procedures
3. Checking harvested crops and plants have been prepared in accordance with product storage specifications
4. Arranging harvested crops and plants in storage in accordance with product specifications and site operating procedures
5. Maintaining security of harvested crops and plants in accordance with site operating procedures
6. Monitoring storage facilities and harvested crops and plants to identify any signs of damage, contamination and loss in accordance with site operating procedures
7. Carrying out stock rotations in accordance with product specifications and site operating procedures
8. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity during harvested crops and plants storage in accordance with site operating procedures
9. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with legal requirements and manufacturers' instructions
2. Type of storage facilities and environmental conditions required for maintaining stored crops and plants in their required conditions
3. How to prepare storage facilities for receiving harvested crops and plants
4. Signs of pests and disease and measures taken to prevent risk of damage from pests
5. How to arrange harvested crops and plants in storage facilities and methods of preventing damage and contamination
6. The purpose of stock rotation including when and how to do this
7. How to maintain security and safety of storage facilities
8. Methods for conducting routine inspections of storage facilities and contents, and why this is necessary
9. How to recognise stored crops and plants that are damaged and contaminated and necessary actions to take
10. The importance of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity and methods for achieving this

10. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

11. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
12. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Unit Specification

Creating and maintaining habitats

URN: SDS 0403

Goal of Unit:

To create and maintain habitats to improve biodiversity and mitigate effects of climate change.

Brief outline:

This is about carrying out work to create and maintain habitats. Habitats include coastal and marine; estuary; farmland; hedgerows; freshwater; rivers; grassland; heathland and moorland; peatlands; rocky; urban; wetlands; woodlands and others. This involves working to plans and specifications and includes removing excessive vegetation; restoration; re-introduction, rewilding; controlling invasive species; tree and hedgerow planting; erosion control; drainage; use of grazing animals; encouraging the growth of specific plants; bankside management; pond creation, desilting; managing the effects of visitors and other activities.

Note: The term 'Maintaining habitats' includes restoring habitats

Performance requirements

1. Checking work plans and specifications to confirm habitat work to be carried out
2. Obtaining materials, tools and equipment needed to carry out habitat work in accordance with work plans and specifications
3. Preparing and using tools and equipment required to carry out habitat work safely in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and organisational requirements
4. Carrying out required habitat work safely using relevant techniques, in ways that minimise disturbance to sites and surrounding areas and in accordance with work plans, specifications and organisational procedures
5. Maintaining communication with those involved in, and affected by habitat work, using relevant communication methods
6. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity in accordance with site procedures and organisational requirements
7. Checking completed habitat work meets required specifications and habitat management plans
8. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. The importance of Habitat Management Plans
2. How to identify key species and their habitats
3. Tools and equipment required and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively
4. Implications of any site restrictions and designations in place and any permissions, consents and licences required to carry out the work
5. Purpose, scope and objectives of habitat work set out in work plans and specifications
6. Materials required to carry out habitat work and how to ensure they are available where and when required
7. Importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, and affected by, the work, and how to do this
8. Type and characteristics of habitats being maintained and improved
9. Best times to carry out work to maximise the benefits to habitats and minimise environmental damage
10. Effects that land uses such as farming, fishing, gamekeeping, recreation and tourism have on habitat work
11. Flora and fauna found in habitats where work is taking place, including any invasive or protected species, how to identify them and how this affects work

12. Habitat maintenance and improvement techniques, including traditional methods, required and how to apply these techniques
13. Where chemicals are used and legislation that applies to their use
14. Importance of monitoring habitat work being carried out and actions to take when there are problems with implementation of plans
15. The importance of hygiene and biosecurity measures and how to apply these

Unit Specification

Maintaining equipment and machinery

URN: SDS 0416

Goal of Unit:

To maintain equipment and machinery in a good state of cleanliness and repair and confirm safety and security in line with site operating procedures and manufacturer's instructions

Brief outline:

This is about maintaining equipment and machinery. It involves routine maintenance and repair of equipment and machinery following site operating procedures and relevant manufacturer's specifications. Maintenance is completed to optimise the performance and maximise the working life of equipment and machinery.

Note: Individuals may be carrying out maintenance or repair or both.

Performance requirements

1. Completing all training and certification required to maintain and repair equipment and machinery in accordance with legislative, manufacturers' and organisational requirements
2. Identifying equipment and machinery requiring maintenance and repair
3. Inspecting equipment and machinery to determine the requirements for maintenance and repair
4. Locating relevant maintenance instructions and manufacturer's specifications for the equipment and machinery being maintained
5. Preparing equipment and machinery for maintenance and repair safely and in line with relevant maintenance instructions and manufacturer's specifications
6. Identifying and marking up components that need to be disassembled and reassembled
7. Obtaining replacement components and parts required to complete maintenance and repair
8. Carrying out routine maintenance and repair of equipment and machinery in line with relevant maintenance instructions and manufacturer's specifications

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Relevant health and safety procedures, how to identify hazards and assess risks, safe systems of work and the personal protective equipment (PPE) required for carrying out maintenance and repair
2. The relevant legislation covering the preparation and use of work equipment in your place of work and any licences or certificates required
3. Legislative, manufacturers' and organisational requirements for the maintenance and repair of equipment and machinery and when additional training or certification is required to carry out maintenance and the replacement of parts
4. The potential health and safety risks resulting from lack of, and poor-quality maintenance of equipment and machinery
5. Inspection methods for equipment and machinery to determine the maintenance and repair requirements and how often these should be carried out
6. Methods for the assessment of defects and faults and the identification of the root cause
7. Identifying when equipment and machinery needs to be serviced, and repaired by an authorised agent

9. Taking correct precautions to prevent the escape of substances and minimise dangers from contamination and hazardous chemicals
10. Keeping the work area safe and in a condition suitable for the maintenance and repair
11. Setting and calibrating equipment and machinery after maintenance and repair in line with relevant maintenance instructions and manufacturer's specifications
12. Testing equipment and machinery after maintenance and repair in line with relevant maintenance instructions and manufacturer's specifications
13. Confirming with relevant personnel that machinery and equipment is in good working order on completion of maintenance and repair
14. Disposing of waste safely and correctly, in accordance with site procedures
15. Recording and reporting equipment and machinery maintenance and repair in line with site requirements

8. Instructions and specifications required for maintenance and repair of equipment and machinery and actions which might invalidate a manufacturer's warranty
9. Components and parts that require periodic replacement and the reasons for this
10. How to obtain replacement components and parts
11. Methods of preparing equipment and machinery for maintenance and repair
12. The dangers created by stored energy and the presence of hazardous chemicals and substances and how these should be dealt with
13. How to mark-up components for disassembly and reassembly and the reasons for doing this
14. The function and maintenance requirements of individual components
15. The procedures to follow where damage, and wear to components exceeds the manufacturer's recommended limits
16. Methods for setting or calibrating equipment and machinery following maintenance and repair
17. The importance of testing the equipment and machinery on completion of maintenance and repair to confirm that it is safe and in good working order
18. Site procedures for the disposal of different types of waste
19. The impact that maintenance and repair of machinery has on the environment and how to minimise this
20. Site requirements for recording and reporting the maintenance and repair of equipment and machinery

Unit Specification

Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity

URN: SDS 0420

Goal of Unit:

To maintain hygiene and biosecurity to minimise risk of contamination and disease in accordance with organisational procedures.

Brief outline:

This is about maintaining hygiene and biosecurity to protect from the introduction and spread of disease. This involves following organisational procedures which could include cleaning and disinfection, personal hygiene and use of quarantine and isolation. The exact arrangements will vary depending on each organisation and activities carried out.

Performance requirements

1. Following organisation procedures to maintain hygiene and biosecurity
2. Using chemicals safely and correctly to clean and disinfect equipment, tools and machinery in accordance with organisational procedures
3. Preventing and minimising impact of hygiene and biosecurity measures on the environment, in accordance with organisational procedures
4. Checking visitors use correct hygiene and biosecurity procedures in accordance with organisational procedures
5. Using quarantine and isolation to minimise risk of disease introduction and spread
6. Reporting any concerns regarding hygiene and biosecurity, in accordance with organisational procedures
7. Recording and reporting hygiene and biosecurity maintenance in accordance with organisational procedures
8. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
9. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Why hygiene and biosecurity are important to your industry and organisation and consequences of poor hygiene and biosecurity
2. Industry codes of practice and organisation procedures for maintaining hygiene and biosecurity
3. The importance of everyone following organisational hygiene and biosecurity procedures
4. The correct use and storage of chemicals used for cleaning and disinfecting and potential impact of use of chemicals on the environment
5. How contamination and cross-contamination occurs and possible consequences for the organisation and the environment
6. The use of quarantine to minimise risk of disease introduction and isolation to minimise the spread of disease
7. Procedures to follow when concerns about hygiene and biosecurity occur
8. Legal requirements and organisational procedures for recording and reporting hygiene and biosecurity measures
9. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
10. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Unit Specification

Maintaining site infrastructure and assets

URN: SDS 0406

Goal of Unit:

To maintain site infrastructure and assets in good state of repair and carry out improvements to meet site requirements.

Brief outline:

This is about carrying out maintenance, repair and improvement to site infrastructure and assets to ensure they are safe and in good working order. This involves working to specifications in accordance with maintenance schedules. You will be involved in maintaining one or more of the following: site boundaries which include walls, fences, banks; access points such as gates, barriers, stiles; structures which could include polytunnels, pens, sheds, huts, stables, buildings, hides, screens, boardwalks, pergolas, fishing platforms, bridges; surfaces which could include footpaths, tracks, bridleways, car parks, courtyards, steps; site furniture including signs, display boards, notices, waymarkers, seats, benches, tables, bins, decorative items; drainage including ditches, culverts, pipes. Maintenance include removal of overgrown vegetation. Surfaces and car parks include snow removal and gritting in winter months.

Performance requirements

1. Checking requirements for maintenance, repair and improvement of site infrastructure and assets in accordance with maintenance schedules and specifications
2. Obtaining materials, tools and equipment needed to carry out required work in accordance with maintenance schedules, specifications and organisational procedures
3. Preparing and using tools and equipment required to carry out work safely in accordance with legal requirements and manufacturers' instructions
4. Carrying out site maintenance, repair and improvement work safely and in accordance with maintenance schedules, specifications and organisational procedures
5. Carrying out cleaning to required standards in accordance with maintenance schedules, specifications and organisational procedures
6. Carrying out work whilst minimising damage to sites, surrounding areas and wider environment
7. Maintaining hygiene and biosecurity in accordance with site procedures and organisational requirements
8. Checking completed work meets required specifications

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. How to obtain materials required to carry out maintenance work and how to ensure materials are available where and when required
2. How to obtain and interpret schedules and specifications for details of work required for maintenance, repair and improvement of site infrastructure and assets
3. Correct use of warning signs and barriers to inform and protect others whilst work is carried out
4. The importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, and affected by, the work, and how to do this
5. The importance of cleaning as part of maintenance and how and when to do this
6. Safe use of cleaning materials and equipment and legal requirements for storage and use of potentially harmful substances
7. Principles and techniques to carry out required maintenance work and how to apply these
8. The importance of checking that completed work meets specifications and organisation requirements
9. How to recognise and report when site infrastructure and assets are beyond repair and need to be replaced

9. Identifying the need for further work and recording and reporting this in accordance with organisation procedures
10. Maintaining the safety and security of tools and equipment on site
11. Identifying best practice approaches to sustainability relevant to your work role
10. How to identify key species and their habitats and why this is important
11. The importance of long-term monitoring to determine the effectiveness of work carried out and to inform future requirements
12. The importance of preventing pollution and damage to surrounding areas and wider environment during work
13. The importance of hygiene and biosecurity measures and how to apply these
14. Why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
15. Potential impact of your work on surrounding areas and importance of minimising environmental damage

Unit Specification

Receiving goods and supplies

URN: US0231

Goal of Unit:

To receive goods and supplies in line with organisation procedures, maintaining the safety and security of the goods.

Brief outline:

This is about receiving delivery of goods and supplies. It involves checking the goods meet the original order, as well as handling, storing and recording goods delivered.

Receiving delivery of goods may require working with equipment and machinery.

Performance requirements

1. Completing all training and certification required to operate equipment and machinery used to receive deliveries in accordance with legislative and organisation requirements
2. Checking accompanying delivery documentation to confirm description and quantity of incoming goods matches delivery note and original order
3. Checking that quality of incoming goods meets organisation requirements
4. Dealing with any discrepancies, damaged and poor-quality goods in line with organisation procedures
5. Booking deliveries into stock in line with organisation procedures
6. Handling and transporting goods using relevant methods to minimise damage and ensure safety and security
7. Storing goods safely and securely in accordance with relevant legislation, manufacturers' recommendations, and organisation procedures
8. Monitoring stored goods in line with organisation procedures
9. Shutting down equipment and machinery after use to maintain safety

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Relevant health and safety procedures, how to identify hazards and assess risks, safe systems of work and the personal protective equipment (PPE) required for receiving deliveries
2. Tools and equipment used to receive deliveries and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively in line with manufacturers' instructions and organisation requirements
3. The importance of undertaking relevant training and checking that any licences to operate equipment and machinery are in place
4. Why deliveries should be checked against delivery notes and original order and any discrepancies followed up
5. The importance of checking the condition of goods and the action to take if there are any damaged and poor-quality items
6. Documentation that should accompany deliveries such as certificates of conformity
7. Organisation procedures for receiving deliveries into stock
8. How to handle and transport different types of goods safely and maintain them in good condition
9. The precautions to take and PPE required when handling hazardous materials

10. Maintaining the security of equipment and machinery at all times in accordance with organisation procedures
11. Leaving equipment and machinery in a suitable condition for future use
12. Recording and reporting information on the delivery of goods in line with relevant legislative and organisation requirements

10. Storage requirements for different types of goods and the purpose of manufacturers' recommendations regarding storage
11. When deliveries should be placed in quarantine and the procedures for this
12. The importance of using stock rotation procedures related to shelf life
13. Ways in which security and safety of storage facilities are maintained
14. The importance of monitoring the condition of goods in storage, especially if they are perishable
15. Why it is important to maintain the safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
16. Legal and organisation requirements for recording and reporting delivery information

Unit Specification

Using equipment and machinery

URN: SDS 0423

Goal of Unit:

To use equipment and machinery in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, regulatory requirements and organisation procedures to maintain the safety of yourself and others

Brief outline:

This is about using equipment and machinery to perform daily tasks. It involves carrying out pre-use checks to confirm the equipment and machinery continues to operate safely, using the equipment and machinery to carry out tasks and storing it safely and securely after use. This includes digital, automated, or advanced technology and other specialised equipment and machinery used within your job role.

Note: individuals may be using equipment or machinery, or both.

Performance requirements

1. Completing all training and certification required to use required equipment and machinery in accordance with legislative and organisation requirements
2. Identifying hazards and using required PPE when operating equipment and machinery in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
3. Preparing equipment and machinery ready for use in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
4. Carrying out pre-use checks on equipment and machinery in accordance with relevant legal requirements and manufacturer's instructions
5. Operating equipment and machinery in accordance with relevant legislation, manufacturer's instructions and organisation procedures whilst ensuring the safety of self and others
6. Using attachments safely and correctly in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
7. Identifying problems with equipment and machinery and taking the required action

Knowledge and understanding requirements

1. Relevant health and safety procedures, how to identify hazards and assess risks, safe systems of work and the personal protective equipment (PPE) required for operating equipment and machinery
2. The relevant legal requirements, licences, certification, codes of practice, training and organisational requirements for the use of equipment and machinery
3. How to prepare equipment and machinery before use, including attachments where used, and the pre-use checks and actions required
4. How to operate equipment and machinery safely and correctly in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and organisation procedures
5. How to maintain the safety of self and others when using equipment and machinery
6. The capabilities and limitations of the equipment and machinery being used and the factors that may affect safety and efficiency
7. The types of attachments, where required, that are safe for use with the equipment and machinery being used, how to fit them safely and correctly and how to set and calibrate them

8. Shutting down equipment and machinery after use to maintain safety
9. Maintaining the security of equipment and machinery at all times in accordance with organisation procedures
10. Leaving equipment and machinery in a suitable condition for future use
11. Storing equipment and machinery safely and securely in accordance with organisation procedures

8. How to operate and use relevant attachments safely
9. The function of all controls and instruments on equipment and machinery being used
10. The types of hazards that may be encountered when operating equipment and machinery and how these should be dealt with
11. The sort of problems that may occur with equipment and machinery, how to identify them, and the action to take
12. The importance of carrying out routine checks on equipment and machinery and how to identify defects and faults
13. How to shut down equipment and machinery after use
14. Why it is important to maintain the safety and security of equipment and machinery at all times
15. Post-use activities that need to be carried out to maintain equipment and machinery
16. How equipment and machinery should be stored and the importance of security
17. The potential impact of your work on the surrounding area and the environment and how it can be minimised
18. Organisation procedures for recording and reporting equipment and machinery operation