



## National Unit specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Health and Safety in a Construction Environment  
(SCQF level 4)

**Unit code:** H71C 04

**Publication date:** April 2014

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 01

### Unit purpose

This Unit is suitable for candidates wishing to gain the knowledge and understanding required to work safely in a Construction working environment. This Unit is designed to provide candidates with the competence to successfully complete the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Health, Safety and Environment knowledge test to fulfil CSCS certification requirements.

The qualification is equally relevant to candidates currently employed in Construction, Apprentices or new entrants or for candidates preparing for employment in Construction.

### Outcomes

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

- 1 Identify the principles of risk assessment for maintaining and improving health and safety at work.
- 2 Identify the importance of safe manual handling in the workplace.
- 3 Identify the importance of working safely at heights in the workplace.
- 4 Identify risks to health within a construction environment.
- 5 Identify the importance of working safely around plant and equipment.

### Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (4 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4)

## **National Unit specification: General information (cont)**

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### **Recommended entry to the Unit**

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates undertaking this Unit at SCQF level 4 should have a basic understanding of the Construction industry.

### **Core Skills**

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

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

### **Context for delivery**

If this Unit is delivered as part of a Group Award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the Group Award to which it contributes.

The Assessment Materials for this Unit provide assessment and marking guidelines that exemplify the national standard for achievement. It is a valid, reliable and practicable assessment. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to these to ensure a comparable standard.

### **Equality and inclusion**

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

Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

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

**Unit title:** Health and Safety in a Construction Environment  
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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

### **Outcome 1**

Identify the principles of risk assessment for maintaining and improving health and safety at work.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) State the purpose and legal requirements of risk assessments and method statements.
- (b) Identify common causes of work-related injuries and fatalities.
- (c) Identify the implications of not preventing accidents and ill health at work.
- (d) Outline the meaning of terminology relating to health and safety at work.
- (e) Identify hazards and risks associated with Construction practices and activities.
- (f) Outline the importance of reporting accidents and near misses and identify accident reporting responsibilities and procedures.

### **Outcome 2**

Identify the importance of safe manual handling in the workplace.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Outline the reasons for ensuring safe manual handling in the workplace and potential injuries and ill health that may occur from incorrect manual handling.
- (b) Identify employee legislative responsibilities for manual handling, moving and storing materials
- (c) Identify safe lifting procedures in accordance with official guidance
- (d) Outline the importance of using site safety equipment when handling materials and equipment.
- (e) Identify aids available to assist manual handling in the workplace.
- (f) Outline how to apply safe work practices, follow procedures and report problems when carrying out safe manual handling in the workplace.

### **Outcome 3**

Identify the importance of working safely at height in the workplace.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify the meaning of the term 'working at height'.
- (b) Identify the statutory regulations that controls the use of suitable equipment for working at height.
- (c) Identify employee legislative responsibilities whilst working at height.
- (d) Identify hazards, risks and control measures associated with working at heights.

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

**Unit title:** Health and Safety in a Construction Environment  
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### **Outcome 4**

Identify the risks to health within a construction environment.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify substances hazardous to health and common risks within a Construction environment under current regulations.
- (b) Identify hazards and risks that may occur in the workplace linked with use of drugs and alcohol.
- (c) Outline the importance of correct storage of combustibles and chemicals on site.
- (d) Outline the importance of personal hygiene within a construction environment.
- (e) Identify types of asbestos waste, potential health hazards and risks from exposure, control measures and personal protective equipment.

### **Outcome 5**

Identify the importance of working safely around plant and equipment.

#### **Performance Criteria**

- (a) Identify hazards, risks and control measures related to moving machinery.
- (b) Identify hazards, risks and control measures relating to the use of plant and equipment.
- (c) Identify hazard warning signs and symbols related to the use of plant and equipment.
- (d) Outline how method statements can assist in ensuring the safety of workers where moving plant is in use.

## National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Written and/or oral recorded evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved Outcome 1–5 to the standards specified in the Performance Criteria.

All assessment will take the form of a multiple choice question paper and will be conducted under controlled, open-book supervised conditions.

### Outcome 1

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by completing the question paper to the stated performance level.

- ◆ Purpose and Legal requirements of risk assessments and method statements
- ◆ Common causes of work-related Injuries and fatalities
- ◆ Implications of not preventing accidents and ill health
- ◆ Health and safety terminology:
  - identifying hazards and risks
- ◆ State the meaning of the following in relation to health and safety at work:
  - accident
  - near miss
  - hazard
  - risk
  - competence
- ◆ Accident and near miss reporting responsibilities and typical reporting procedures
- ◆ List typical hazards/risks associated with the following:
  - resources
  - equipment
  - obstructions
  - storage
  - services
  - wastes
  - work activities

## National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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### Outcome 2

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by completing the question paper to the stated performance level.

- ◆ Reasons for ensuring safe manual handling
- ◆ State potential injuries and ill health that may occur from incorrect manual handling
- ◆ State the employee's responsibilities under current legislation and official guidance for:
  - moving and storing materials
  - manual handling
  - mechanical lifting
- ◆ State the procedures for safe lifting
- ◆ Importance of site safety equipment for handling materials and equipment.
- ◆ List four manual handling aids
- ◆ State how to apply safe work practices, follow procedures and report problems when carrying out safe manual handling in the workplace

### Outcome 3

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by completing the question paper to the stated performance level.

- ◆ Definition of the term working at heights
- ◆ Statutory regulations for controlling working at heights
- ◆ Employee legislative responsibilities for working at heights  
List hazards/risks associated with the following and identify appropriate control measures:
  - dropping tools and debris
  - stability of ladders
  - overhead cables
  - fragile roofs
  - scaffolds
  - internal voids
  - equipment
  - the working area
  - other people
- ◆ State the regulation that controls the use of suitable equipment for working at height

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

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### **Outcome 4**

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by completing the question paper to the stated performance level.

- ◆ List substances hazardous to health under current regulations
- ◆ List five common risks to health within a construction environment
- ◆ State the types of hazards/risks that may occur in the workplace linked to drugs and alcohol
- ◆ State the importance of the correct storage of combustibles and chemicals on site
- ◆ State the importance of personal hygiene within a construction environment
- ◆ State the potential hazards/risks to the health of workers due to exposure to asbestos and outline the control measures for these hazards
- ◆ Identify types of asbestos
- ◆ State types of personal protective equipment (PPE) used when dealing with hazardous materials

### **Outcome 5**

Candidates will be required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding by completing the question paper to the stated performance level.

- ◆ List hazards and risks linked to moving machinery that can cause injuries
- ◆ State hazards/risks relating to the use of plant and equipment
- ◆ State the importance of keeping a safe distance away from plant/machinery and equipment until clear communication is made with the operator
- ◆ Outline how method statements can assist in ensuring the safety of workers where moving plant is in use
- ◆ State ways to eliminate or control hazards/risks relating to working around plant and equipment
- ◆ Identify hazard warning signs and symbols used around the use of plant and equipment



## National Unit Support Notes

**Unit title:** Health and Safety in a Construction Environment  
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Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

### Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit has been developed as the single mandatory Unit for the SCQF level 4 Qualification: *Health and Safety in a Construction Environment*.

The successful completion of this Unit will provide candidates with the required underpinning knowledge to gain Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) green card status within a construction environment.

Candidates wishing to obtain the CSCS green operator card will still have to successfully complete the CSCS Health and Safety touch screen test.

This Unit will also prepare candidates for further learning and training. It is also designed to prepare learners for employment.

The Unit covers all aspects of Health and Safety in a Construction environment such as risk assessments, method statements, hazards, hazardous substances, COSHH, accidents and emergencies, health risks, manual handling and working at heights, working around plant and equipment and legislative responsibilities. Specific information on the range and scope of assessment criterion will be provided to the candidate and assessor.

Sustainability should include reference to criteria affecting sustainability, impact of not implementing sustainability on the environment and the legislation promoting sustainability.

### Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

The candidate should be given the opportunity to further develop the knowledge and understanding required to work safely in Construction environment.

Learning and teaching approaches should be learner centred, with the candidate acquiring knowledge and understanding through active participation in activities which will develop their understanding. These activities will include carrying out risk and COSHH assessments, completing accident and incident reporting exercises, developing the ability to identify hazards and risks in a variety of situations, interpreting method statements, identifying appropriate manual handling approaches, spatial awareness exercises, personal hygiene risk identification and stating employee and employer legislative responsibilities in relation to Health and Safety in a Construction environment.



## National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Health and Safety in a Construction Environment  
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### Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Detailed Assessment Materials and Knowledge Analysis Profiling documentation have been developed for this Unit. Centres may use the instruments of assessment which they consider to be most appropriate but are advised to use the SQA devised materials which has been developed centrally by SQA. Any other instruments of assessment used must be comparable and have been through prior verification.

The candidates' specific knowledge and understanding requirements will be determined by undertaking an individual skill match which will identify training requirements.

Candidates should be given the opportunity to develop their knowledge by active participation in activities which will allow them to experience completing risk assessments, interpreting method statements, identifying hazards and hazardous substances, writing COSHH assessments, reporting accidents and emergencies, identifying and reporting health risks, carrying out manual handling, identifying hazards and risks associated with working at heights and working around plant and equipment and an understanding of employee and employer legislative responsibilities.

Evidence of competence will be generated through completing a multiple-choice question paper to the performance level identified for each Outcome and Performance Criteria.

### Opportunities for e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment).

### Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

Components of the Core Skill of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 4, such as Planning, Organising and Critical Thinking will be developed as candidates undertake this Unit. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop this Core Skill during training activities designed to develop their knowledge and understanding of Health and Safety in a Construction environment.

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill of *Working with Others* at SCQF level 4, such as team work or working in pairs. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop this Core Skill further during training activities designed to develop their knowledge and understanding of Health and Safety in a Construction environment.

## National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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*Numeracy* at SCQF level 4 will be enhanced through the interpretation of information such as method statements and the interpretation of legislation. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop this Core Skill further during training activities designed to develop their knowledge and understanding of Health and Safety in a Construction environment.

There will be opportunities for candidates to develop the Core Skills of *Communications* at SCQF level 4 through team work or working in pairs. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop this Core Skill further during training activities designed to develop their knowledge and understanding of Health and Safety in a Construction environment.

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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## **General information for learners**

**Unit title:** Health and Safety in a Construction Environment  
(SCQF level 4)

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

This Unit will give you the knowledge and understanding required to work safely in a Construction working environment. It is designed to provide you with the competence to successfully complete the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Health, Safety and Environment knowledge test to fulfil CSCS certification requirements.

To obtain the CSCS green operator card you will still have to successfully complete the CSCS Health and Safety touch screen test.

You should have opportunities to acquire the knowledge and understanding through active participation in activities which will develop your understanding. These activities will include carrying out risk and COSHH assessments, completing accident and incident reporting exercises, developing your ability to identify hazards and risks in a variety of situations, interpreting method statements, identifying appropriate manual handling approaches, spatial awareness exercises, personal hygiene risk identification and stating employee and employer legislative responsibilities in relation to Health and Safety in a Construction environment.