CITY & GUILDS NPTC LEVEL 2 AWARD IN THE SAFE USE OF HANDHELD LEAF BLOWERS AND VACUUMS (QCF) QAN 601/1290/6



QUALIFICATION GUIDANCE

Integrated Assessment

Essential Qualification Information

Not to be used by the Candidate during Assessment

You will require some of this information to accurately complete the Record of Assessment (ROA)

Qualification Group No	0 0 1 4	Machinery
Qualification Programme No	0 0 1 4 - 2 4	L2 Award in the Safe Use of Leaf Blowers and Vacuums
Unit(s)	2 0 1	Handheld leaf blower or vacuum operations
Endorsement(s)	0 0 1	Handheld leaf blower
	0 0 2	Handheld vacuum
Learning Time (LT)	2 0 1	LT 16 (2 Credits) (* see note on page 2)
Recommended Assessment Duration		1.5 – 3 hours per Candidate

City and Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Leaf Blowers and Vacuums (QCF) Qualification Guidance

Introduction

The scheme will be administered by City & Guilds

City & Guilds will:

Publish

- Scheme regulations
- Qualification guidance
- Training materials
- Trainers support materials

Approve centres to co-ordinate and administer the scheme Set standards for the training of Verifiers and Assessors Recruit, train and deploy Verifiers Issue certificates to successful Candidates

The Qualification

The qualification will be awarded to Candidates who achieve the required level of competence in the units to which their certificate relates.

What is the Qualifications and Credit Framework?

OFQUAL have introduced the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) to increase flexibility for learners and employers. Qualifications may be built up from individual units according to rules of combination. The units are derived from the National Occupational Standards, which are compiled by Lantra SSC, the Sector Skills Council for the Land-based industries.

Instruction

Attendance at a course of instruction is not a pre-requisite for an application for an assessment but potential Candidates are strongly advised to ensure that they are up to the standards that will be expected of them when they are assessed.

* Learning Time (LT)

Learning Time (LT) is a better indicator of the time requirement needed for a candidate to achieve competence in this qualification. It has replaced Guided Learning Hours (GLH) which are defined as "tutor or teacher led hours". LT is defined as "a notional measure of the learning time a typical learner might be expected to take to complete and achieve all learning outcomes". It takes into account prior learning and encompasses: formal learning (including classes, tutorials, on line tuition), coaching and mentoring, practical work, relevant IT activity, information retrieval, expected private study and revision, work-based activity which leads to assessment, practice to achieve competence, formative assessment, programme planning and feedback.

Access to Assessment

Assessment centres will be responsible for arranging assessment on behalf of the Candidate.

The minimum age limit for Candidates taking Certificates of Competence is 16 years. There is no upper age limit.

The assessment consists of one compulsory unit:

Unit 201 (Mandatory) (Credit Value 2)

Outcome 1. Know how to carry out a risk assessment (Criteria 1.1 – 1.2)

Outcome 2. Know the current health and safety legislation and environmental good practice (Criteria 2.1 – 2.3)

Outcome 3. Demonstrate how to check and maintain the machine (Criteria 3.1 – 3.5)

Demonstrate how to operate a leaf blower or vacuum (Criteria 4.1 – 4.3)

Outcome 5. Know how to carry out post operative checks (Criteria 5.1 – 5.2)

Outcome 6. Know how to clean and appropriately store a leaf blower or vacuum (Criteria 6.1 – 6.2)

Endorsements: the assessment may be taken using any equipment listed:

001 Handheld leaf blower002 Handheld vacuum

The certificate will be endorsed accordingly. Candidates are encouraged to take their assessment with different types of equipment to broaden their certification.

Only two endorsements can be taken in any one registration.

Quality Assurance

Verification is a process of monitoring assessment; it is an essential check to confirm that the assessment procedures are being carried out in the way City & Guilds has laid down. The overall aim of verification is to establish a system of quality assurance that is acceptable in terms of both credibility and cost effectiveness.

Approved Assessors will be subject to a regular visit by the verifier at a time when assessments are being undertaken.

A selection of assessment reports completed by the Assessor will be evaluated by a City & Guilds approved verifier.

Compliance with the verification requirements is a pre-requisite for Assessors remaining on the list of approved Assessors.

After assessment has been completed the Qualification Guidance is to be forwarded to the centre and retained by the centre until after the annual centre visit has taken place by a Quality Systems Consultant (QSC).

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Quality Assurance continued...

As part of the quality assurance process, a minimum of **two** observations are required to be undertaken for each qualification that is assessed by a Trainer/Assessor. These will be carried out by an internal Verifier appointed by the Centre. One observation will be conducted in the presence of the Quality Systems Consultant. In respect of risk management, there is an expectation that additional observations up to a maximum of **four** will be carried out for the inexperienced or newly qualified Trainer/Assessor or Assessors.

Performance Evaluation

The result of each assessment activity is evaluated against the following criteria:

- Meets or exceeds the assessment criteria by displaying a level of practical performance and/or underpinning knowledge. If the Criterion has been MET, a tick ☑ is to be put in the box provided in the bottom right-hand column of each section.
- NM = Not Met Does not satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria, being unable to perform the practical task satisfactorily or safely or being deficient in underpinning knowledge. If the Criterion is NOT MET, a cross 🗵 is to be put in the box provided in the bottom right-hand column of each section.

Appeals and Equal Opportunities

Centres must have their own auditable, appeals procedures. If a Candidate is not satisfied with the examination conditions or a Candidate feels the opportunity for examination is being denied, the Centre Manager should, in the first instance, address the problem. If, however the problem cannot be resolved, City & Guilds will arbitrate and an external verifier may be approached to offer independent advice. All appeals must be clearly documented by the Centre Manager and made available to the external verifier or City & Guilds if advice is required.

Should occasions arise when centres are not satisfied with any aspect of the external verification process, they should contact Verification Services at City & Guilds.

Access to the qualification is open to all, irrespective of gender, race, creed, age or special needs. The Centre Manager should ensure that no learner is subjected to unfair discrimination on any grounds in relation to access to assessment and to the fairness of the assessment. QCA requires City & Guilds to monitor centres to check whether equal opportunities policies are being adhered to.

Validation of Equipment

A Manufacturer's instruction book or other operator's manual should be available. It is permissible for the Candidate to use this during formal assessment.

All equipment being used for this assessment must comply with the relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998.

Vehicles must comply with Department of Transport and Road Traffic Acts where relevant.

Any appropriate item of machinery complying with legal requirements is acceptable for the assessment, provided it is suitably equipped for all assessment activities to be carried out.

Safe Practice

Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times.

The Assessor must ensure that a site specific risk assessment is carried out.

All equipment must be operated in such a way that the Candidate, Assessor, other persons, or other equipment are not endangered.

All ancillary equipment, when detached, must be safely parked.

Failure to operate safely and comply with these requirements will result in the Candidate not meeting the required standard.

Warning signs stating that an assessment is in progress should be available.

The Assessor may stop the assessment on the grounds of safety at any time at his/her discretion.

Before any assessments take place, Assessor & Candidate should be aware of any local or national issues to prevent breach of security, safety and any cross contamination or damage to the local environment.

A breach of Health and Safety that puts any person at risk during the assessment process will result in the assessment being terminated and the Candidate not meeting the required standard.

Additional Information

May be sought from the relevant manufacturer's operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Questions should be related to the background or employment aspirations of the candidate and, where possible, product labels used should be representative of products typically used in that sector or industry.

Candidates who undertake this assessment and have met the requirements are reminded of their legal obligation to receive/undertake appropriate additional training in the use of any equipment that differs from that used during the assessment, but which they are nevertheless qualified to use.

Assessment Guidance for the Trainer/Assessor

This qualification can be assessed by a Trainer who has trained the Candidate (a Trainer/Assessor) or by a third party (an Assessor) not directly involved with training of the Candidate providing they are suitably qualified and meet the requirements of the awarding body. Please see City & Guilds Centre Manual for guidance.

It is envisaged that assessment will be carried out after all of the training has been completed. However assessment may take place at intervals after each 'period' of training and may be effectively integrated into the training programme. The Candidate must be informed when assessment is taking place in terms of when formal assessment commences and when its ceases. It is not permissible to assess whilst training is being carried out. Assessment must be a separate activity.

Trainer/Assessors are reminded that assessment is a formal process. Assessment must be carried out using the Qualification Guidance. All relevant assessment criteria must be assessed against the criteria as specified in the Qualification Guidance. Assessment will be carried out by direct observation and by oral questioning of the Candidate. Where a specific number of responses are required these may include other suitable answers not specified if they are deemed to be correct by the Assessor. The performance of the Candidate is to be recorded on the Qualification Guidance as directed by completing the tick boxes. Space has been provided on the Qualification Guidance for the person assessing to record relevant information which can be utilised to provide feedback to the Candidate. Trainer/Assessors are reminded that feedback from the Candidate is required on the Record of Assessment that is sent to City & Guilds as part of the quality assurance process. After assessment has been completed the assessment schedule is to be forwarded to the centre and retained by the centre until after the annual centre visit has taken place by a Quality Systems Consultant (QSC).

The Candidate may only have a maximum of 3 attempts. Re-assessment cannot take place until further training has been provided.

Assessment Guidance for Candidate

A list of registered assessment centres is available from City & Guilds Land Based Services. (www.nptc.org.uk)

Assessment is a process by which it is confirmed that the candidate is competent in the unit(s) within the award to which the assessment relates. It is the process of collecting evidence about the candidate's capabilities and judging whether that evidence is sufficient to attribute competence.

The Candidate must be registered through the City & Guilds approved assessment centre for this qualification prior to the assessment.

The results of the assessment will be recorded on the Record of Assessment form (ROA).

The qualification guidance contains criteria relating to:

- Observation of practical performance
- Assessment of underpinning knowledge

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Candidate A Name:		Date:			Start Time: Dura		ation:					
Candidate	В	Name:		Date:		Start Time:	Duration:		า:			
Candidate C Name:			Date:			Start Time:	Duration:					
Candidate D Name:			Dat	te:		Start Time:	Duration:					
CRITERIA NUMBER		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE				SSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	C.	CANDIDATE A B C I			
Unit 201 1.1	Ass and leaf	ry out a Risk essment for task, site machine in respect of blower or vacuum rations to identify: significant hazards those at risk control measures	Candidate to carry out a rassessment by checking the site for hazards and report findings to the assessor Candidate to state two possible risks when operate a leaf blower or vacuum	ne	•	include: flying debris bio hazards	zards					
Unit 201	for t	ure that the site is safe he operation of a leaf wer or vacuum	Candidate is to confirm that the site is or is not safe for the operation of a leaf blower or vacuum		Can • •	Candidate is required to: walk the site and remove or mark hazards set out warning signs						
					•	themselves	ency procedures in the eve					
					Con • Or	take place the site condition to take place wit	table for the operation to n is not suitable for the ope hout remedial action. In whate makes the site safe					
							Met ✓ Not	Met X				
Unit 201 2.1	and und	line the relevant Health Safety legislation that erpins the use of leaf vers or vacuums	(Note: Any three required name and an outline of the implication on leaf blower of vacuum operation))	May •	duties under the The Managemen	fety at Work Act 1974 – spact as an employee nt of Health and Safety at V	Vork				
			(Any implications considered to be valid by the Assessor may be	,	•	carried for all ac	tive Equipment Regulations					
			accepted)		•	Manual Handling avoid manual ha lifting techniques						
					•	Regulations 200 health from vibra	ibrations at Work 5 – to reduce the risk to ations se of Work Equipment					
					•	Regulations (PU regular checks a	WER) 1998 – requires that	İ				
					•	wildlife and Cou operation carried	be worn over 85db ntryside Act (WCA) 1981 - d out at times to minimise	-				
						the impact on wi	Met ✓ Not	Met X				

NUMBED	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT			IDA	
NUMBER	CRITERIA dentify appropriate	GUIDANCE Candidate to identify PPE	ACTIVITIES Unless other wise stated in the manufacturers	Α	В	С	D
	Personal Protective	required for operation	handbook or operators manual, PPE may include:				
	Equipment (PPE) for leaf		hard hat/helmet with full face visor				
	blower or vacuum operations	Assessor Note: Safety goggles are recommended	face protection				
	pperations	for leaf blower or vacuum	suitable eye protection				
		operation	ear defenders				
			dust mask				
			non snag clothing				
			high visibility clothing				
			safety footwear				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Describe the function of	The candidate is to identify	To include all of the following:				
	he controls of the leaf	all the controls on the	on/off switch				
	plower or vacuum and the	machine being used	vacuum/blow control				
3.1 m	meaning of safety decals		• choke				
			throttle				
			throttle lock				
			primer bulb				
			decompressor (if fitted)				
			Operator Presence Control (OPC) (if fitted)				
			, , , ,				
		The candidate is required to	To include:				
		state the meaning of the decals on the machine	the operator protection decals				
		decais on the machine	bystander protection decals				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
lo	dentify the safety features	The candidate is to identify	May include:				
Unit 201 0	of the machine	the guarding requirements for	all moving/hot parts to be guarded as defined in				
3.2		the machine being used	the operators handbook				
3.2		The candidate to state three	Safety precautions may include:				
		safety precautions	Risk Assessment must be carried out before				
		, ,	operation of the machine				
			site must be conformed as safe for the operation				
			PPE must be worn at all times				
			ensuring the safety of bystanders/public				
			a minimum safe working distance as				
			recommended by the manufacturer				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Outline good	Candidate to outline how	May include:				H
	environmental practice	compliance with	use of bio fuel/oils				
а	associated with leaf blower	environmental good practice	avoidance of spillage				
2.3	or vacuum operations	can be achieved	using a spill kit to deal with any accidental spillage				
			carrying out clearance with consideration to the				
			needs of wildlife				
			composting of arisings on site				
			Met ✓ Not Met X	П	П	П	
	Carry out pre-start checks	Candidate to carry out pre-	These may include:				
Unit 201 to	o the power unit and	start checks to the machine	condition of anti vibration mounts				
	attachments	and describe what they are	inspecting the machine for signs of damage				
3.3		looking for	(including the vacuum pipe and any				
			attachment(s))				
			inspecting the machine for loose components and fixing as				_
			fixings				
			checking the oil level (if applicable)				
Continued			checking the fuel level				
Continued			fuelling the machine (if required)				

CRITERIA NUMBER	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		AND B	IDA ¹	TE D
NOWIDER	CRITERIA	Candidate to state two safety	This may include:	Α	В	C	ע
Cont		precautions that should be observed with flammable	no smoking/naked flames				
Unit 201		liquids	allowing machines engine to cool be fore re- fuelling.				
2.2			fuelling avoiding contact with hot surfaces				
3.3			fuel topped up to correct level allowing for				
			expansion				
			any spillage is dealt with using the correct method				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
Unit 201	Carry out routine maintenance in	The candidate is required to carry out routine	Power unit and covers:]		
	accordance with	maintenance procedures for	 spark plug to be disconnected inspect for security and damage external screws, 				
3.5	manufacturer's instructions	the leaf blower or vacuum	nuts and bolts present and secure				
			debris removed from fins/air intake				
			exhaust (muffler) is secure and intact				
			debris cleared from intake pipe/fan				
		The candidate to state the	Service air filter:				
		purpose of the air filter	air filter prevents debris from entering the carburettor and needs to be clean to maintain				
			correct air/fuel ratio				
			debris removed from around filter prior to removal				
			filter removed (choke close or protected)				
			 filter cleaned or new filter obtained (as appropriate) 				
			filter replaced and cover fitted				
		The candidate to state the	Comition the amount relief				
		relevance of the colour of the	Service the spark plug: if fuel rich – deposits dark brown to black				
		deposits on the spark plug	if fuel weak – light brown to white				
			engine cover and spark plug removed				
			plug cleaned appropriately				
			wear/damage assessed (replaced if necessary)				
			or				
		The candidate to assess the	Coming atomics accell as a bonium.				
		recoil mechanism and	Service starter recoil mechanism: when the spring is slack the cord does not fully				
		comment on tension and condition of cord	retract				
		Condition of Cord	over tight spring binds the cord before it can be fully extended.				
			fully extended recognise wear points; at base of toggle and				
			where attached to pulley				
			starter cover removed and ventilation slots				
			cleaned cord inspected for wear				
			cord and coil spring released and re-tensioned				
		The condidate is acquired	Fuel filter:				
		The candidate is required only to state how to service	fuel cap to be removed				
		the fuel filter	filter to be located and removed from tank using				
			an appropriate tool				
			 condition of the filter determined, replacement if necessary 				
			 cleaning procedures include using non flammable 				
			detergents followed by rinsing and drying				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
11	Test start the machine and	Candidate is to test start the	To include:				
Unit 201	ensure that it is operating correctly	machine and comment on their findings	safe starting procedure for the machine				
3.4		9-	start machine shock controls are fully apprecianal.				
			check controls are fully operational machine stopped using on/off switch				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
			Met v Not Met X	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT	C	AND	IDA ⁻	ΓΕ
NUMBER	CRITERIA	GUIDANCE	ACTIVITIES	Α	В	С	D
Unit 201 4.1	Carry out leaf or debris clearance in accordance with instructions or specification	Candidate to demonstrate safe and efficient operation of the leaf blower or vacuum in context of the candidate's	To include: • safe starting • PPE worn at all times				
4.1	Specification	employment Note: The Assessor is to	safety of bystanders/publicwork planned				
		specify the area to be covered (It is suggested that a minimum area of	efficient use of the machine debris collected or blown to appropriate location for collection				
		50m ² for vacuums and 100m ² for blowers should be cleared)	machine emptied/debris collected Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Dispose of arisings in line	Candidate to demonstrate	Waste disposed in line with:				_
Unit 201 4.2	with operational and environmental requirements	how to dispose of arisings	 company policy/site or operational requirements environmental good practice 				
			any legislative requirements Met ✓ Not Met X				
Unit 201	Leave the site clean and tidy	Assessor to specify the condition	To include: • site left in condition as specified by assessor				
4.3			Met ✓ Not Met X				
Unit 201	Carry out cleaning of a leaf blower or vacuum	Candidate is to demonstrate how to clean the machine after use	To include: • cleaning procedures carried out as recommended by manufacturer				
0.1		Candidate is to state two advantages of regularly cleaning the machine after	May include, to: • prevent corrosion				
		use	 facilitate maintenance and adjustments prevent personal contamination 				
		Candidate to state two factors to consider when cleaning the machine	May include:				
			compressed airhose and waterbrush				
			waste disposed in line with company policy, environmental good practice and any legislative requirements				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
Unit 201	State why post operative checks should be carried out	Candidate to state one reason for inspecting the machine after use	May include: to establish if there are any missing, damaged or worn components				
5.1			ensures that defects can be rectified before machine is required again for use				
			Met ✓ Not Met X	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш
Unit 201	Carry out post operative checks on a leaf blower or vacuum	Candidate is to demonstrate how to carry out post operative checks and describe what they are	May include: machine inspected description provided				
5.2		looking for to the assessor	Met ✓ Not Met X				
Unit 201	Store a leaf blower or vacuum in an appropriate place	Candidate to store the machine after use	To include: machine stored in an appropriate place after use				
6.2			Met ✓ Not Met X				

Summary of Assessment (The	Assessor is to con	nblete the follow	ıına as appropriate.
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Candidate A	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓		
	Signed: D	ate:				
Candidate B	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓		
	Signed: D	ate:				
Candidate C	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓		
	Signed: D	ate:				
Candidate D	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓		
	Signed: Date:					
For (Int	use by Internal Verifier ONLY if the assessment process was in ernal Verifier to complete ONE of the boxes below)	nternally	v verified			
	I observed an assessment process taking place and I am satisfied that the assessment was conducted in line with the qualification requirements and that the judgement of the Assessor was appropriate.					
I ob	eserved an assessment process taking place. The following were i	noted as	s areas of concern.	Tick ✓		