

This update is to inform existing and new centres offering 6159 Winter Service Operations of scheme development and revised scheme documentation.

1. **Qualification Dates** – The qualifications are available until 31 December 2017 and will then either be extended or reviewed. During the period City and Guilds may update any units to meet the demands of stake holders and learners. Revised and updated documents will be made available to centres on the web site.
2. **New Qualification Pathway - 6159-16 Off Highway Equipment** – The scheme now includes units to cater for ‘Off Highway Equipment’. This pathway is specific to equipment used in environments not deemed public highways. The pathway consists of four units covering Safety and operation of equipment. Depending of the equipment used for assessment it may be possible to assess more than two learners in a day provided that the centre has obtained the Qualification Consultants approval prior to assessment taking place. Unit 010 learning and practical outcomes must be achieved prior to assessment on other units to complete the pathway.

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| 6159-16 | Unit 010 and 022 or 023 or 024 | Winter Service Operations Off Highway Equipment |
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3. **Registration of Qualifications** - A revised form has been issued to all centres for the purpose of registering qualifications. The Registrar will accept older forms for a period of time.
4. **Endorsements** - More local authorities are now using pre-wetted salt; to meet the demands of the industry and to ensure that operators know how to use this material safely Unit 013 will have an endorsement to cover the use of pre-wetted salt. This can be claimed in the same way existing endorsements on the relevant certificates. Brine application is not readily available on unit 011 and 012 equipment.
5. **Unit 014 – Foden 4000** – Unit 014 is now withdrawn from the revised scheme qualification pathways. This is due to the redundancy of the equipment with the Highways Agency.
6. **Highways Agency Equipment Unit 015** – The HA has issued a notice to term maintenance contractors which allow for vehicles carrying a snowplough to travel in excess of 40mph where safe to do so. Centres must confirm with the client on their policy regarding this prior to any training or assessment taking place. This does not apply to other units within the scheme.
7. **Spreading de-icing materials** – During practical assessment the learner must demonstrate the spreading of de-icing materials, altering the width and rate of spread and the use of the spot/blast function as well as unloading. Assessors should not assume learners can do this without practical demonstration. This also applies where brine is used to spread pre-wetted

salt. Treated sections of the route should be sufficient to enable all performance criteria to be assessed.

8. **Snowploughs** – Any snowplough fitted and carried on a vehicle must have a safety device fitted to prevent the plough from dropping due to hydraulic or electrical failure. These safety devices must meet the requirements of the BS EN Standards and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations. Where a snowplough is presented for assessment that does not comply with the safety requirements the assessment must not go ahead until rectified. (Reference - BS EN 15583-1).
9. **Unit 021** – The Well Maintained Highways code of practice was updated recently. The learner handbook was updated from a previous version and does not contain any additional recommendations that were added to the latest document. This does not affect the learning outcomes for the unit although a revised handbook will be issued later. The examination paper has some alterations to questions; centres must ensure that they are using the current paper which can be obtained from City and Guilds website or Walled Garden.
10. **Unit 080, 090, 010** – These Units are updated to reflect changes in legislation and the learning outcomes of any revision. The examination papers which are used to confirm the learning outcomes must only be used in accordance with City and Guilds criteria, they must not be used for any training or assessment outside of this scheme. Centre must ensure that they have the most up to date copies of the examination papers which can be obtained from City and Guilds website or Walled Garden.
11. **Scheme Trainers and Assessors** – New registration cards are issued to centres by the Registrar. During the period of the scheme assessors must ensure that they hold the appropriate driving licence category for the unit being assessed, the Qualification Consultant will be confirming this during verification visits. Centres must ensure that all trainers and assessors are familiar with the scheme changes and additional pathways.
12. **Assessment materials** – Assessment materials provide by City and Guilds must not be altered in any way or used for purposes other than training and assessment within the qualification. All materials are copy right protected.