

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

1. **Qualification Dates** – The current qualification (prior to 31 October 2013) is replaced by a revised Winter Service Operations 6159 Award.
2. **Current Safety Units 080 and 090** - Units 080 or 090 will continue to have 12 months to complete the qualification pathway, this will allow for an overlap beyond 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013. Scheme and Unit numbers will remain the same.
3. **Assessor/Trainer re-registration** – All current Assessors/Trainers should have re-registered through NEREO. Where this has not been carried out NEREO will reject any centre applications to register assessed or examined awards. All applications should be received by 31 September 2013 to allow for new cards to be issued.

Assessors already holding either Units 011, 012 or 013 will have the new qualification pathway units added to their cards that relate to the vehicle/plant category. This covers Units 016, 017 and 018 for Vehicles and Ploughs as well as Units 022, 023 and 024 for Off Highway equipment.

4. **Additional Pathways** - Additional qualification pathway for the use of winter service equipment 'Off-Highway Equipment' is added to the scheme. This will be aimed at organisations that treat or plough snow in public car parks, industrial areas, schools, or National Health Service premises, etc.

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 6159-09               | Unit 010 and 022 or 023 or 024. | This pathway does not carry any facility for claiming other pathways within this award. |
| Off Highway Equipment | Endorsements 111, 212 or 213    |   |

5. **Endorsements** – an additional Endorsement has been added to Unit 013 only to cover local authority's use of pre-wetted salt (brine). At this time pathway 6159-09 equipment does not carry this endorsement due brine not being used off highway. This may change subject to the demands of the industry.
6. **Unit 014 – Foden 4000** – Unit 014 has been withdrawn from the revised scheme qualification pathways. This is due to the redundancy of the equipment with the Highways Agency.
7. **Unit 021 Supervision and Monitoring** – This unit has been revised and some alterations made to the examination paper. Centres should ensure that they use the latest examination paper Version 2 dated July 2013.
8. **Highways Agency Unit 015** – The HA has issued the attached letter to all Term Maintenance contractors operating on their trunk road network. Centres should confirm with the employer on the application of the content to their own working practice prior to commencing any training and assessment. It should be drawn to the attention of centres

that all assessments are undertaken in accordance with the Unit guidance and safety must not be compromised.

9. **Open Ladders fitted to equipment.** Where a ladder access is available that does not have a working platform and guard rails it should only be used for inspection purposes, for example, checking the contents of the hopper. Open ladders should not be used for washing down equipment or activities that require both hands to be free from a suitable handhold. Appropriate training should be provided that will include the safety recommendation for the use of ladders and access platforms under the Work at Height learning outcome.
10. **Driver Continuing Professional Development (D-CPC)** – The Driving Standards Agency has issued guidance on the application of the Regulations covering D-CPC which seeks to clarify the legal requirements to hold a D-CPC for Winter Service Operations. This is now included in the Assessor/Leaner Guidance. At this time the Agency declined to provide any further guidance relating to Winter Service Operations only to suggest that employers seek legal advice. The Portfolio Consultant will continue to monitor this and provide any additional guidance once known.
11. **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. 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.
12. **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).
13. **Identity photographs** – Centres are reminded to only send passport quality photographs when applying for the qualification to be registered. The photograph must be on photo quality paper that allows for scanning. NEREO will return any photographs that do not comply with the information provided on the application form.
14. **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.