

6159 Winter Service Operations Update

Latest news from City & Guilds – December 2021

This update provides information and guidance to all centres and staff involved in Winter Service Operations 6159.

Some changes were made to the assessment units earlier this year, and an 'Alert' was sent out to all centres regarding this update. As a reminder to centres, please ensure that you are using the most recent assessment documents. The centre handbook and relevant assessment units were updated recently to change 'Highways England' to 'National Highways.'

The current documents can be found on the [City & Guilds Website](#).

Over the next 18 months the qualification will be subject to a full review. We will keep centres updated on any proposed redevelopments, changes and timelines post the review. To ensure you are kept up to date please subscribe to our email updates [here](#).

Units 680 – 690 and 621

The National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG) have completed the guidance documents which are referenced in Well Managed Highways Infrastructure (Code of Practice). Centres should reference these documents when delivering these training units and include them in training and any presentations used.

These documents are freely available to download from <https://nwsrg.org/>.

Centre staff who are involved in the delivery of the qualifications must ensure that they are familiar with the relevant documents.

Unit 621

Unit 621 is specifically aimed at those who supervise the front-line operations. It is not intended to be for those who are responsible for making decisions on the actions to be carried out. The subject in the handbook covering decision making is only as an overview to ensure supervisors know how information is gathered to plan any actions to treat the highway.

Snow Ploughs

Some authorities and term maintenance contractors use the 'KUPER' snow plough blades. These ploughs are designed to run in contact with the road surface and rely upon snow to act as a lubricant between the road and plough to limit wear (often known as back to black ploughs). As they are not designed to run on a dry/damp road surface it is sufficient to assess learners lowering the snow plough, driving a few metres then raising and securing the snow plough for travelling, this may be carried out in a suitable depot area. This will limit any wear to these types of blades as they are quite expensive.

For snow ploughs fitted with running wheels they should be set to ensure no damage is caused when used on assessment. It is advised to adjust them to at least 50mm clearance between the rubber blade and road surface for assessment purposes.

When carrying out any training on snow ploughs fitted with running wheels it should be noted that any metalwork of the plough should be at least 50mm above the road surface and the rubber blades set at 15-25mm. Should the clearance distance between the metalwork and road surface be less than 50mm there is a risk of damage to the plough or road surface.

Assessments

Centres are reminded to keep to the stated Trainer/Assessor: Learner ratios in the qualification handbook. Where it can be demonstrated that more than these ratios can be assessed, it must be pre-approved by the centre EQA.

Many authorities are using Satellite Navigation and automatic spreading of de-icing materials. Where these are fitted and used assessors should confirm the learners understanding and use as part of the spreader checks. When carrying out the route assessment learners are assessed manually spreading de-icing materials.

Snow Throwers (Blowers)

National Highways have recently put out to tender for the replacement of its aging fleet of snow throwers. It is hoped that arrangements can be made to facilitate familiarisation training, via National Highways, for existing assessors on this type of equipment when the replacement is available.

The existing units covering National Highways equipment will be updated once it is known what snow throwers will be selected as a replacement.

North East Regional Employers' Organisation (NEREO) Qualification Registrar

NEREO will accept emailed passport quality learner photographs as a preferred option. Centres should name the jpeg files with the learner's name and date of birth/or C&G Number. Wherever possible please try to keep the file sizes below 200kb. Please email Maureen O'Keefe – mokeefe@nerEO.gov.uk – for examples of suitable e-photos.

NEREO will accept E-Certificates along with the application form to register the learners' qualifications.