

Smart Awards Level 2 in SA001 Overhead Safety Specification

SMART AWARDS
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Introduction

This qualification provides learners with the knowledge and skills of the hazards and potential risks involved in working safely on ladders and wooden poles in a telecommunications environment. It also helps learners' awareness of compliance with health and safety legislation.

The qualification tests learners' knowledge, skills and understanding of dangers associated with these works and the safety precautions required while working on ladders and wooden poles.

This qualification ensures that individuals working on ladders and wooden poles are appropriately trained and assessed for safety and competence. This qualification is aimed at those working on ladders and wooden poles in a telecommunications environment. This qualification does not cover rooftop working.

This qualification covers three modules:

- Ladder safety
- Pole checking and climbing
- Joint user poles

Key Information	
Name	Smart Awards Level 2 SA001 Overhead Safety
Accreditation	This qualification is approved by: • Qualifications Scotland Accreditation: Qualification number: R638 04 • Ofqual: Qualification number: 603/7545/01
Level	2
Duration	2.5 days
Guided Learning Hours (Ofqual)	18
Time/Notional Learning Hours (Qualifications Scotland Accreditation)	18
Ofqual Total Qualification	22
RQF - Ofqual Credit. Credit value represents the size of a unit which is determined by the learning time. One credit = 10 hours of notional learning.	2
Age	16 and over
Qualification type	Vocationally Related Qualification
Smart awards product area	Safety Qualifications
Sector subject area	6.1 – Digital technology (practitioners)
Certification	This qualification is valid for a period of three years from the date of certificate issue. To remain compliant and eligible to work on

	telecommunications networks, individuals must renew their qualification before the expiry date.
Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS)	This qualification is fully aligned with the requirements of the Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS). Successful completion of this qualification is recorded within the NOPS system, ensuring operatives are visible and verifiable to employers and site access systems across the industry.
Prerequisites and entry requirements	There are no formal entry requirements and Smart Awards will not restrict access on the grounds of prior academic attainment, employment, geographic location, or any other grounds. There are no barriers to access or progression, supporting inclusivity and equal opportunity for all learners. Learners must have a basic understanding of the English language for regulated qualifications that are approved by Ofqual or Qualifications Scotland Accreditation. Please note: The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) requires at least one person on site to hold a Street Works card to work on the highway. This Smart Awards accreditation is based on a prerequisite that any work on the highway requires appropriate Street Works accreditation to be held by an individual working on site, and that this individual is qualified to check that the planned provision of footways, traffic lanes and safety zones determined by the site survey meets with the requirements of the site location and approved procedures and practices required by the NRSWA 1991. Some companies' policies may vary where more than one person on site is required to hold a valid Street Works card.
Mandatory units and optional routes to completion.	Learners must complete the Overhead Safety unit in full to achieve this qualification. No optional units or routes are available.
Additional requirements to achieve this qualification.	None
Methods of assessment	This qualification will be assessed through a practical and theory test. The aim of the assessment is to ensure successful learners have adequate knowledge and understanding of working overhead in a telecommunications environment. Assessment guidance, assessor requirements and additional qualification documentation is supplied to approved Smart Awards centres via Quartz.
Theory test	Learners are required to pass a 25-question multiple-choice test, with questions randomly selected from a secure question bank to ensure comprehensive coverage of all assessment criteria. The test is timed, and learners will have 30 minutes to complete it. All multiple-choice tests are conducted online via the Smart Awards online assessment platform.
Practical assessment	During the practical assessment, the learner will demonstrate competency when performing all pre-works checks, setting up the site and safely climbing a ladder and pole, then clearing the site. The learner will have 90 minutes to complete the practical assessment

Grading	Learners will be graded (Fail or Pass) on an achievement or non-achievement basis. The final grade will be determined by collective performance in the two assessment tools (theory and practical). Learners are required to achieve both the theory and practical assessments to achieve the qualification. • Theory - To achieve a pass, 80% or more is required • Practical - If one major fault is given the learner will automatically fail • Learners must receive fewer than fifteen minor faults to pass the practical assessment If there are major health and safety failures due to learners' actions or understanding, the assessment **must** be stopped. The learner should be taken to a suitable area to be explained the reason for stopping the assessment and that their assessment is deemed as failed. Guidance on the major failures that should result in stopping the assessment is provided in the practical assessment.
Reasonable adjustments and special considerations	Smart Awards approved centres that have learners with specific requirements should refer to the Smart Awards Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and Procedure. This document outlines the support available to ensure fair access to assessments. It can be found on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk
Recognition of Prior Learning	Smart Awards is committed to supporting Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and has established a dedicated policy and set of procedures to guide and assist approved centres in its implementation. The full policy is available on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk
Required resources and site requirements for delivering this qualification	To ensure a safe and effective learning and assessment environment, the following site requirements must be met for the delivery of the SA001 Overhead Safety qualification: • Access to a suitable training area that simulates real-world overhead telecoms environments, including poles, ladders, or other relevant infrastructure • Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn by all learners and assessors, including safety helmets, high-visibility clothing, gloves, and appropriate footwear • The site must comply with current health and safety regulations, including safe access/egress, signage, and emergency procedures. • Adequate first aid provision must be available on-site throughout the training and assessment period • Learners must have access to safe working at height equipment (for example, harnesses and fall arrest systems) that has been inspected and approved in line with relevant legislation • The site must provide access to classroom or indoor facilities for the delivery of theoretical content and the completion of the online multiple-choice assessment

Qualification Structure

The level 2 Overhead Safety qualification consists of one mandatory unit, which learners must complete to achieve the qualification. Attainment at level 2 demonstrates the learner's ability to apply relevant knowledge, skills, and procedures to carry out clearly defined tasks and resolve straightforward problems with appropriate direction or supervision.

Smart Awards Level 2 in SA001 Overhead Safety • Ofqual: Qualification number: 603/7545/01 • Qualifications Scotland Accreditation: Qualification number: R638 04								
Minimum TQT for this pathway = 22 Minimum number of credits = 2 Minimum number of units = 1			Minimum number of GLH = 18 Minimum number of assessment time = 2 Other learning time = 4					
Unit Number	Unit Title	Level	M/O	GLH	ASS	OTHER LEARNING	TQT	CREDITS
F/618/7222	Overhead Safety	2	M	18	2	4	22	2

Learner Support and Assessment Conditions

Learners will have access to support throughout the training period via their trainer. Trainers are responsible for ensuring that each learner is adequately prepared and competent before presenting them for assessment.

No support or assistance may be given to the learner during either the theory or practical assessments, to maintain the integrity and validity of the qualification.

Qualification Objectives and Requirements

This qualification confirms that the learner has demonstrated the required competence to work safely in the telecommunications overhead network. To successfully obtain this qualification, the learners will need to demonstrate the knowledge and ability requirements set out in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Unit Title:	SA001 Overhead Safety
Unit Reference	F/618/7222
Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Be able to work safely.	1.1. Identify the hazards and risks associated with the working area and the proposed work. 1.2. Work in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice. 1.3. Use correct manual handling techniques. 1.4. Use climbing equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE). 1.5. Complete safety checks for all ladders and steps to be used. 1.6. Carry out work to minimise environmental damage.
2. Be able to access a pole using a ladder.	2.1. Perform a hazard evaluation and Work at Height assessment of the pole prior to commencing the work. 2.2. Inspect access equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation.

Unit Title:	SA001 Overhead Safety
Unit Reference	F/618/7222
Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
	2.3. Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the assessed risk. 2.4. Use appropriate positioning techniques. 2.5. Carry out safe climbing of a ladder. 2.6. Demonstrate how to safely climb a pole in a controlled manner. 2.7. Descend pole in a controlled manner and remove equipment appropriately.
3. Know relevant health and safety legislation and industry good practice.	3.1. Outline the key health and safety legislation and industry good practice. 3.2. Outline the key health and safety regulations that need to be observed when working at height. 3.3. Describe how to use and maintain tools, equipment, and personal protective equipment. 3.4. Outline the emergency planning procedures relevant to the work area.
4. Know how to access a pole and work against a solid structure using a ladder.	4.1. Describe different methods used to safely access a pole. 4.2. Describe different positioning techniques. 4.3. Describe how to ensure that access equipment and systems are in safe working order. 4.4. Describe how to work safely on ladders and step ladders. 4.5. Describe how to erect and guard a ladder. 4.6. Outline how to secure a ladder against a solid structure. 4.7. Outline how to correctly check that the ladder is stable and is safe for working on. 4.8. Outline how to secure a ladder with a knot. 4.9. Describe how to raise tools to the working position and adopt a safe drilling position on a ladder. 4.10. Describe how to turn on a pole and how to overcome obstacles.
5. Know how to carry out pole checking.	5.1. Identify pole markings and sterile poles. 5.2. Outline pre-works checks. 5.3. Describe the pole test process and low wire procedure. 5.4. Outline safe climb zones.
6. Know how to work safely on joint user poles.	6.1. Outline how to recognise low and high-voltage poles. 6.2. State how to access joint user poles. 6.3. Describe how to work safely on joint user poles.