

# Smart Awards Level 2 in SA001A Overhead Safety Awareness

# Specification

SMART AWARDS
Awarding Platform for Smart Qualifications

| Version Number | Date | Purpose of Change | Classification | Sign Off |
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| V1.0 | 02 March 2025 | | Public | Marc Henson |
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# Introduction

This qualification covers:

- Ladder Safety
- Pole Checking and Climbing
- Joint User Poles

The Overhead Safety Awareness qualification provides knowledge regarding legislation and dangers associated with working on ladders and wooden poles in a telecommunications environment. Learners are provided with the knowledge to understand the hazards and potential risks associated with this work, as well as gaining knowledge of compliance with Health and Safety legislation. It tests learners' knowledge and understanding of the dangers associated with these works and the safety precautions required when working on or around ladders and wooden poles.

The qualification ensures that individuals who require an awareness of working on ladders and wooden poles are suitably trained and understand the dangers associated with this environment. It is aimed at those who require an awareness of, supervise, or plan the work of operatives who climb ladders and wooden poles within a telecommunications environment, or similar utilities, including suppliers and contractors.

This qualification does not cover rooftop working.

| Key Information | |
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| Name | Smart Awards Level 2 SA001A Overhead Safety Awareness |
| Accreditation | This qualification is approved by:<br>• Smart Awards |
| Level | 2 |
| Duration | 1 day |
| Age | This qualification is available to anyone age 16 and over who can reach the required standard. There are no barriers that restrict access or progression thereby promoting equal opportunity. |
| 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 supervise, plan or support the work of operatives who climb ladders and wooden poles within a telecommunications environment, 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 that restrict access or progression, thereby promoting equality. |

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| | Learners must have a basic understanding of the English language for regulated qualifications that are approved by Ofqual or Qualifications Scotland Accreditation.<br><br>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.<br><br>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 Awareness 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 theory test. The aim of the assessment is to ensure that successful learners have the knowledge and understanding required to supervise, plan or support the work of operatives who climb ladders and wooden poles within a telecommunications or similar utilities environment, including suppliers and contractors.<br><br>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.<br><br>All multiple-choice tests are conducted online via the Smart Awards online assessment platform. |
| Practical assessment | There is no practical assessment requirement for SA001A. |
| Grading | Learners will be graded on an achievement or non-achievement basis. The final grade will be determined by the performance in the theory assessment.<br>Theory assessment:<br>• 25 questions<br>• Learners will have 30 minutes to complete the assessment<br>• To achieve a pass, 80% or more is required |
| 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 |

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| 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 SA001A Overhead Safety Awareness qualification:<br>• Access to a suitable training area that simulates real-world overhead telecoms environments, including poles, ladders, or other relevant infrastructure<br>• Although this unit has no practical assessment requirement, centres and sites will have their own requirements regarding Personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE must be worn by all learners and assessors where required, this may include safety helmets, high-visibility clothing, gloves, and appropriate footwear<br>• The site must comply with current health and safety regulations, including safe access/egress, signage, and emergency procedures.<br>• Adequate first aid provision must be available on-site throughout the training and assessment period<br>• The site must provide access to classroom or indoor facilities for the delivery of the theoretical content and the completion of the online multiple-choice assessment |

# Qualification Structure

The level 2 Overhead Safety Awareness 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.

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| Minimum TQT for this pathway = 8<br>Minimum number of credits = 1<br>Minimum number of units = 1 | | | Minimum number of GLH = 7.5<br>Minimum number of assessment time = 0.5<br>Other learning time = 0 | | | | | |
| Unit Number | Unit Title | Level | M/O | GLH | ASS | OTHER LEARNING | TQT | CREDITS |
| | Overhead Safety Awareness | 2 | M | 7.5 | 0.5 | 0 | 8 | 1 |

# 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 the theory test, to maintain the integrity and validity of the qualification.

The theory test is a multiple-choice online test completed under appropriate examination conditions. An invigilator must be used for the theory part of the assessment (An assessor can act as the invigilator). The invigilator is responsible for ensuring that the examination room meets the following:

- You must pay attention to the level of outside noise
- Desks/tables must be provided that have sufficient room for learners to work comfortably
- Learners must be seated sufficiently far apart to ensure they cannot see each other's work
- Display material must not be visible in the examination room
- A reliable clock must be visible to each learner in the examination room
- You must create a seating plan that is in keeping with an examination room
- Please refer to Smart Awards invigilation guide

There is only the provision for the assessments to be undertaken in English.

# Qualification Objectives and Requirements

This qualification confirms that the learner has demonstrated the required knowledge and understanding to have an awareness, supervise, plan or support the work of operatives who climb ladders and wooden poles within a telecommunications environment, or similar utilities including suppliers and contractors. 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: | SA001A Overhead Safety Awareness |
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| Unit Reference | SA001A |
| Learning outcomes | Assessment criteria |
| The learner will: | The learner can: |
| 1. Know relevant health and safety legislation and industry good practice. | 1.1. Outline the key health and safety legislation and industry good practice. |

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| | 1.2. Outline the key health and safety regulations that need to be observed when working at height.<br>1.3. Describe how to use and maintain tools, equipment, and personal protective equipment.<br>1.4. Outline the emergency planning procedures relevant to the work area. |
| 2. Know how to access a pole and work against a solid structure using a ladder. | 2.1. Describe different methods used to safely access a pole.<br>2.2. Describe different positioning techniques.<br>2.3. Describe how to ensure that access equipment and systems are in safe working order.<br>2.4. Describe how to work safely on ladders and step ladders.<br>2.5. Describe how to erect and guard a ladder.<br>2.6. Outline how to secure a ladder against a solid structure.<br>2.7. Outline how to correctly check that the ladder is stable and is safe for working on.<br>2.8. Outline how to secure a ladder with a knot.<br>2.9. Describe how to raise tools to the working position and adopt a safe drilling position on a ladder.<br>2.10. Describe how to turn on a pole and how to overcome obstacles. |
| 3. Know how to carry out pole checking. | 3.1. Identify pole markings and sterile poles.<br>3.2. Outline pre-works checks.<br>3.3. Describe the pole test process and low wire procedure.<br>3.4. Outline safe climb zones. |
| 4. Know how to work safely on joint user poles. | 4.1. Outline how to recognise low and high-voltage poles.<br>4.2. State how to access joint user poles.<br>4.3. Describe how to work safely on joint user poles. |