

Smart Awards Level 2 in SA006 Safe Working in Civils Specification

SMART AWARDS
Awarding Platform for Smart Qualifications

Version Number	Date	Purpose of Change	Classification	Sign Off
V3.0	01 October 2025		Public	Marc Henson
V4.0	01 October 2026	Reformatted and updated	Public	Marc Henson

Copyright © 2026 Smart Awards Ltd

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means whatsoever without prior written permission from the copyright holder.

Unit F8A | Holly Farm Business Park | Honiley Road | Kenilworth | CV8 1NP
T: 02476 421125
E: info@smartawards.co.uk
W: www.smartawards.co.uk

Company Number 9079735 | VAT Number 216 7632 08

Introduction

This qualification covers:

- Safe Working in Civils
- Gas Testing
- Cover Lifting

The Safe Working in Civils qualification provides basic knowledge regarding legislation and dangers associated with safe working in a utility construction environment. Learners are provided with the knowledge to understand the hazards and potential risks associated with civils works in utilities environments as well as gaining knowledge of compliance with Health and Safety legislation. It tests learners' knowledge and understanding of dangers associated with these works and the safety precautions required while working in civils.

The qualification ensures that individuals working in the civils aspects of network construction and maintenance are suitably trained and understand the dangers of working in this environment. It has been mapped to the National Occupational Standards for 'Maintain a safe and secure working environment in utilities network construction' and Health and Safety in a Construction Environment.

Please Note: If working on adopted carriageways to comply with legislation, at least one person on site **must** also hold the appropriate Street Works Card in line with the requirements of New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA)1991.

Key Information	
Name	Smart Awards Level 2 SA006 Safe Working in Civils
Accreditation	This qualification is approved by: • Ofqual qualification number: 610/5024/6 • Smart Awards
Level	2
Duration	2 days
Guided Learning Hours (Ofqual)	12
Ofqual Total Qualification	16 hours
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	This qualification is available to anyone aged 16 or over who can reach the required standard.
Qualification type	Vocationally Related Qualification
Smart Awards product area	Safety Qualifications
Sector subject area	5.2 – Building and Construction
Certification	This qualification is valid for a period of three years from the date of certificate issue. To remain compliant and demonstrate ongoing

	competence, learners are required to requalify before the expiry date by completing the full qualification again.
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. Learners must have a basic understanding of the English language for regulated qualifications that are approved by Ofqual or Qualifications Scotland Accreditation. Please note: All learners, even those that hold a SA002 Underground Safety, are required to complete SA006 in its entirety. 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. This qualification does not qualify an individual to enter a confined space. Those individuals who need to enter confined spaces MUST hold appropriate accreditation / qualification to enter confined spaces. Any references made in this material to confined spaces are for information only and to make learners aware of the risks and presence of gases that may also be present in confined spaces.
Mandatory units and optional routes to completion	Learners must complete the Safe Working in Civils 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 both a practical assessment and a theory test. The aim of the assessment is to ensure successful learners have adequate knowledge and understanding of safe working in civils in a utility construction environment. Assessment guidance, assessor requirements and additional qualification documentation are supplied to approved Smart Awards centres via Quartz.
Theory test	Learners are required to pass a 65-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 1 Hour 45 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-work checks, setting up the site and safely accessing an underground chamber, then clearing the site. The learner will have 30 minutes to complete the practical assessment.
Grading	Learners will be graded on an achievement or non-achievement basis. The final grade will be determined by collective performance in the two assessment tools (theory test and practical assessment). Learners are required to achieve both the theory test and practical assessments to achieve the qualification. Theory: • The learner will have 1 hour 45 minutes to answer 65 questions • To achieve a pass, 80% or more is required Practical: • If one major fault is given the learner will automatically fail • If six or more minor faults are given the learner fails. • The learner needs to achieve less than six minor faults to pass 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 documentation.
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 SA006 Safe Working in Civils qualification: • A safe practical area with a minimum of three chambers/pits, using a variety of chamber types to simulate a network, for example JF2, JF4, JF6 and JF10. • A minimum of 10 metres of interconnected ducting between each chamber/pit, installed at the correct depth to simulate a working network. • Each chamber/pit should have a minimum of 1 metre of bound material surrounding the frame and cover. • A safe area with a frame and cover to simulate a carriageway chamber. • Signing and guarding equipment.

	• Checked and tested lifting equipment. • 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 safety equipment for example, gas detection unit (GDU) 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 test. Recommended: A frame and cover to simulate a castellated footway chamber.

Qualification Structure

The level 2 Safe Working in Civils 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 SA006 Safe Working in Civils • Ofqual: Qualification number: 610/5024/6								
Minimum TQT for this pathway = 16 Minimum number of credits = 2 Minimum number of units = 1			Minimum number of GLH = 12 Minimum assessment time = 2 Other learning time = 4					
Unit Number	Unit title	Level	M/O	GLH	ASS	OTHER LEARNING	TQT	CREDITS
J/651/3999	Safe Working in Civils	2	M	12	2	4	16	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.

The theory test is a multiple-choice online test. 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

The practical assessment must be conducted in a controlled environment that simulates real-world working conditions. It must not be undertaken in a 'live' situation without prior approval from Smart Awards. All relevant assessment records must be stored by the centre and available for Smart Awards to audit. The theory test can be undertaken before or after the practical assessment.
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 competence to work safely in Civils in the telecommunications 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:	Smart Awards Level 2 in SA006 Safe Working in Civils
Unit Level:	2
Unit Credit Value:	2
Unit Reference Number:	J/651/3999
NOS	EUSMUNC10 Maintain a safe and secure working environment in utility network construction and aligns to K/505/1933 Health and Safety in a Construction Environment.

Learning outcomes	Assessment criteria
The learner will:	The learner can:
1. Know relevant health and safety legislation and industry good practice when working in a civils works environment.	1.1 Outline the key health and safety legislation and industry good practice. 1.2 Outline the emergency planning procedures relevant to the work area. 1.3 State your legal responsibilities for health and safety as required by the Health and Safety at Work Act appropriate to site working.
2. Know the principles of risk assessment and method statements for maintaining and improving health and safety at work.	2.1 State common causes of work-related: Injuries/fatalities. 2.2 List typical hazards/risks associated with the following: ○ resources ○ equipment ○ obstructions ○ storage ○ services ○ waste ○ work activities 2.3 State the importance of reporting accidents/near misses, who is responsible and the usual procedure. 2.4 State the legal requirements and purpose of dynamic risk assessments and method statements.

	2.5 State the implications of not preventing accidents and ill health at work.
3. Know the importance of safe manual handling in the workplace.	3.1 State the reasons for ensuring safe manual handling in the workplace. 3.2 State potential injuries and ill health that may occur from incorrect manual handling. 3.3 State the employee's responsibilities for moving, mechanical lifting and manual handling. 3.4 State the procedures for safe lifting in accordance with official guidance. 3.5 State the importance of using site safety equipment when handling materials and equipment. 3.6 List aids available to assist manual handling in the workplace. 3.7 State how to apply safe work practices, follow procedures and report problems when carrying out safe manual handling in the workplace.
4. Know how to avoid dangers of underground services.	4.1 Identify how to locate underground services. 4.2 Outline safe digging practices and the need for trench support. 4.3 Identify the use of signs and markers used by utilities. 4.4 List the risks and hazards associated with underground services.
5. Know the importance of working safely in a confined space.	5.1 Identify when a work location has the potential to become a confined space. 5.2 List the hazards associated with a confined space. 5.3 State the procedures to follow when entering and exiting a confined space.
6. Know the importance of working safely at height in the workplace.	6.1 Define the term 'working at height'. 6.2 State the employee's responsibilities under current legislation and official guidance whilst working at height. 6.3 List hazards/risks associated with the following: o dropping tools and debris o stability of ladders o overhead cables o fragile roofs o scaffolds o internal voids o equipment o the working area o other equipment 6.4 State how hazards/risks associated with working at height can be controlled. 6.5 State the regulation that controls the use of suitable equipment for working at height.
7. Know the importance of working safely around plant, tools and equipment.	7.1 List ways in which moving plant, machinery or equipment can cause injuries.

	7.2 State the importance of safeguards located near where plant, machinery and equipment are being used. 7.3 State the importance of keeping a safe distance away from plant/machinery and equipment until clear contact is made with the operator. 7.4 Outline how method statements can ensure the safety of workers where moving plant is in use. 7.5 State ways to eliminate or control hazards/risks relating to working around plant and equipment. 7.6 Identify hazard warning signs and symbols used around the use of plant and equipment. 7.7 State hazards/risks relating to the use of plant, tools and equipment.
8. Understand how to interpret utility drawings and maintain accurate information to ensure a safe and secure working environment.	8.1 State how to interpret a job pack including utility prints. 8.2 State how to check/interpret information for accuracy, validity and meaning and its importance. 8.3 List site information that needs to be provided to others regarding health, safety and security. 8.4 Outline the purpose of data audit trails and how to use and maintain them.
9. Know the risks to health when working onsite.	9.1 List substances hazardous to health under current regulations. 9.2 List common risks to health within a utility construction environment. 9.3 State the types of hazards/risks that may occur in the workplace linked with use of drugs and alcohol. 9.4 State the importance of the correct storage of combustibles and chemicals on site. 9.5 State the importance of personal hygiene within a construction environment. 9.6 State the potential hazards/risks to the health of workers exposed to asbestos. 9.7 State the types of PPE used in dealing with hazardous materials and how to select, check, store and use it.
10. Know how to maintain a safe and secure working environment.	10.1 State how to work in a safe manner which ensures you do not endanger yourself, others or the environment. 10.2 State how you prevent unauthorised access to the site in accordance with company procedures. 10.3 State how you maintain safe access and egress to and from work locations. 10.4 State how to monitor the working environment and respond to unsafe conditions or changes that could affect health and safety.
11. Be able to work safely.	11.1 Identify the hazards and risks associated with the working area and the proposed work.

	11.2 Work in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice. 11.3 Use correct personal protective equipment. 11.4 Undertake equipment and tool safety checks. 11.5 Carry out work to minimise environmental damage.
12. Be able to carry out gas testing safely.	12.1 Carry out a site-specific risk assessment. 12.2 Use safe method adopted by industry for testing gas in chambers and operational buildings. 12.3 Use testing tools and equipment in accordance with work instructions. 12.4 Check condition of gas testing tools and equipment. 12.5 Perform gas and water test safely.
13. Be able to demonstrate safe methods of testing for lifting covers before working underground.	13.1 Use correct manual handling methods. 13.2 Use tools and equipment used in the industry for lifting covers from joint boxes and manholes safely. 13.3 Remove and replace joint box and carriageway covers safely. 13.4 Use utility prints to aid in the location of chambers.
14. Know the hazards of working in underground chambers or structures.	14.1 State the dangers when entering underground chambers or structures. 14.2 Outline the equipment used by industry for detecting gas. 14.3 Describe what needs to be done if gas is found. 14.4 State the types of gases. 14.5 State safe working in locations which, potentially, have hazardous gas. 14.6 Outline the reporting requirements where gas has been found. 14.7 Outline the requirements for water testing. 14.8 Describe how to keep own safety/safety of others.
15. Know how to carry out cover lifting safely.	15.1 State how to manage the risks associated with cover lifting. 15.2 State how to avoid injury to operatives and the general public. 15.3 Outline the different covers used. 15.4 Describe how to identify polluted water in underground structures in line with environmental requirements. 15.5 State how to avoid damage to underground apparatus.