

What's the next step?

In the first instance you need to contact an NPTC registered assessment centre who offers this qualification. To find your nearest assessment centre, go to NPTC's website www.nptc.org.uk and follow the link to "Assessment Centres".

The Assessment centre will be able to advise on the training and assessment of the qualification.

We strongly advise that all candidates attend a course of instruction before the assessment to ensure that they are properly equipped with the knowledge, skills and resources for a successful assessment. Training can be provided through independent training providers/ instructors, local training groups or colleges.

Candidates will be assessed "competent" or "not yet competent".

When all of your assessments have been completed your local Assessment Centre will forward the results to NPTC so that the certificate and ID cards can be issued, a process which normally takes about four weeks.

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Safe Use of Mowers



About the Qualifications

It is a practical assessment of mower operation, showing that the operator can manoeuvre the mower skilfully and safely. The test includes pre-use checks and maintenance; identification of controls and instruments and operating the machine.

The qualifications will prove useful to local authorities, public utility companies, golf clubs and other employers in these sectors to demonstrate operator competence.

Key Points

- It is suitable for candidates:-
 - who wish to develop skills in the use of mowers
 - who wish to add new skills to their portfolio
 - who wish to be identified as competent operators
 - who wish to promote a professional image

Benefits of the Qualification

A certificate of competence demonstrates that the successful candidate has practical experience, technical knowledge and ability which has been independently and reliably assessed.

Assessment

The assessment requires a practical demonstration of the candidate's competence and ability for both units. Underpinning knowledge and understanding will be assessed orally. Candidates must provide their own PPE. The operator's/ manufacturers handbook must be available to the candidate and assessor. Any breach of safety regulations will result in the assessment being terminated.

Units of the Qualification

The assessment is divided into two compulsory units. Candidates must successfully achieve all assessment activities in both units.

Unit 1 Pre-use safety- mowers

Unit 2 Operate a mower

The certificate will be endorsed according to type of mower with which the assessment was undertaken.

Either: Pedestrian Controlled

Or Tractor Mounted

Or Self Propelled (Ride on)

The assessment may be taken on a mower with any type of cutting mechanism, and the certificate will be endorsed accordingly, for example:

- Cylinder
- Flail
- Rotary
- Reciprocating Knife

Knowledge to be assessed

- Legal requirements
- Safety requirements
- Maintenance requirements
- Operational adjustments
- Factors affecting efficiency
- Safe driving techniques
- Factors affecting cutting patterns
- Clearing blockages

Skills to be assessed

- Check free movement of working parts
- Ability to convert cutting mechanisms
- Check and adjust cutting heights
- Check and adjust cutting mechanisms
- Replace blades
- Daily maintenance routines, safety checks, pre-start checks, brake operation checks, inspection for serviceability
- Mow specified area
- Park mower safely
- Clean mower correctly
- Inspect and identify defects
- Undertake end of season maintenance

Copies of the schedules detailing the assessment criteria for all of the above units can be downloaded from our website at:-

www.nptc.org.uk/assessment-schedules