

Overview

This standard covers the harvesting of crops by mechanical means. Harvesting methods will depend on the type of crop involved and the production requirements.

When working with machinery or equipment you should be trained and hold current certification, where required.

When carrying out your work you must consider the impact it will have on the environment.

This standard is suitable for those who carry out the harvesting of crops by mechanical means.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the activity to be carried out
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. select, prepare, use and maintain harvesting machinery and equipment, safely and correctly
4. check that harvesting machinery and equipment is fit for use and confirm that it is set up correctly for the crop
5. use machinery and equipment to harvest crops in accordance with **instructions and specifications**
6. harvest crops by mechanical means in a way that minimises loss and damage and maintains the quality of the crop
7. carry out adjustments to the equipment and machinery to maintain optimum performance
8. maintain the safety and security of equipment and machinery on site
9. maintain hygiene and bio-security during harvesting, in accordance with business procedures
10. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
11. follow industry and business guidance to minimise environmental damage
12. process waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
13. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
14. complete records as required by relevant legislation and the business

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. the types of machinery and equipment required for harvesting crops and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and correctly
4. the use of technology in the harvesting of crops including GPS and yield mapping
5. the stages of crop development
6. how weather conditions will influence harvesting decisions
7. how to recognise crops that do not meet **instructions and specifications** for harvesting
8. how to recognise crop damage and how to prevent damage to crops
9. how harvesting methods vary according to the type of crop and how it will be used
10. the importance of carrying out the harvesting of crops by mechanical means in accordance with **instructions and specifications**
11. how to make adjustments to the harvesting process and when these are required
12. the sort of problems that may arise during harvesting and the actions to take
13. why it is important to maintain the safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
14. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security during harvesting and the methods for achieving this
15. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
16. the potential impact that your activities could have on the environment and the ways in which this can be minimised
17. the methods for recycling waste created by the harvesting process
18. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
19. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and

- safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
- 20. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

Glossary

Instructions and specifications:

- drawings/plans
- schedules
- method statements
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- manufacturer's guidelines
- customer requirements
- crop requirements
- verbal instructions

Harvest crops by mechanical means

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