
Overview

This standard covers the preparation and use of planting equipment to plant crops.

You will be able to check that the site is in a suitable condition for planting and that the correct quality and quantity of planting material is available. You will also be able to set up and operate machinery and equipment to carry out planting to meet the needs of the crop and planting specification.

If you are working with machinery you need to be appropriately trained in line with current legislation, and hold a relevant award where appropriate.

You must carry out your work in a way which will consider any impact on the natural environment and enhance its nature and conservation.

The standard is suitable for anyone who prepares planting equipment and carries out planting of crops.

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Prepare planting equipment and plant crops

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the required activity
- P2 select, prepare, use and maintain equipment and machinery in a safe, clean, and effective condition throughout
- P3 check planting equipment is fit for use and ensure it is set up to give required outputs
- P4 check that the soil is in a suitable condition for planting to take place and take appropriate action if it is not
- P5 transport and distribute planting material effectively, efficiently and in accordance with the planting/organisation specification
- P6 position planting material in the soil consistently in accordance with the planting/organisation specification across the site
- P7 maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security
- P8 maintain the security of equipment and machinery on site
- P9 follow organisational and industry environmental good practice to minimise environmental damage
- P10 clean down equipment and machinery in accordance with legislation and codes of practice
- P11 deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with legislation
- P12 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P13 keep accurate and up-to-date records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K2 how to interpret risk assessments
- K3 the importance of carrying out an environmental assessment of the site before starting work and the findings which may affect planting work
- K4 the requirements, advantages and disadvantages of different crop production systems
- K5 the principles of sustainable crop production
- K6 types of equipment and machinery required for planting crops and how to prepare, maintain and use these safely and effectively
- K7 the required outputs of the planting equipment taking into account all the relevant factors
- K8 how to set up the equipment and machinery to give required outputs
- K9 types of soil and its relationship to conducive crop planting and establishment
- K10 the requirements and purpose of the planting specification
- K11 methods of preparing soil for establishing crops
- K12 methods of preparing seed to ensure it is suitable for planting e.g. treatment
- K13 the importance of timing planting and the relationship of timing to crop species
- K14 the interrelationship of density, depth and orientation when planting, and that which is best for different crops and different sites and why
- K15 factors which must be taken into account during the planting of crops and the reasons why they must be considered e.g. addition of slug pellets or fertiliser
- K16 problems which may arise during planting and the actions to take
- K17 the importance of maintaining hygiene and biosecurity when planting crops and the methods for achieving this
- K18 why it is important to maintain safety and security of equipment and machinery when on site
- K19 the potential impact of your work on the environment and how to minimise this
- K20 how to clean down equipment and machinery
- K21 the legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transport, storage and disposal of waste
- K22 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K23 the records which need to be maintained

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Glossary

Specifications: drawings, schedules, method statements, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), manufacturers guidelines, customer requirements

Set equipment for output:

- plants/ha
- kg/ha

Planting material:

- seeds
- plants
- tubers etc
- fertilisers
- treatments

Position planting material:

- density
- depth
- orientation

Timing:

- seasonality
- soil conditions
- weather conditions
- environmental conditions

Relevant factors:

- soil type and condition
- topography
- climate
- weather and ground conditions
- previous treatments
- existing structures and systems (e.g. fences, hedges, drainage)
- access

Sustainable agriculture: Meeting the requirements for food production while maintaining profitability and preserving the environment

Records: manual or computerised

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