

Common Core

Unit – CC03 National Water Hygiene

The National Water Hygiene Scheme has been developed by industry and designed to develop the awareness required for entry to sites with restricted operations. The scheme provides essential introductory training and assessment for a new entrant to the water sector and covers health, hygiene and potential contamination issues for working on potable water sites whether fixed (e.g. water treatment works) or transient works on the water network. It is often referred to as the “blue card”.

What does this specification look like?

Learners need to be able to:

NWH1 Understand the requirements for working with water, including working on restricted operations and understand the potential sources of contamination and steps to take to ensure the water is not contaminated

To complete this module you must:

Successfully complete the National Water Hygiene Scheme training and assessment delivered by an assessor registered with the EUSR. Upon completion you will be issued with a cover note whilst awaiting registration for your card. Health screening is vitally important for those working on or near potable water and this ensures that anyone holding the National Water Hygiene Card are not carriers of any waterborne diseases on the date of training.

National Water Hygiene Scheme – ½ Day Course and Assessment

The scheme consists of a half-day tutor led course with an end assessment and leads to National Water Hygiene Registration with EUSR for a period of 3 years. The scheme provides a uniform approach to water hygiene awareness training across the sector and includes modules specifically designed for working on restricted operations.

Subjects covered within the training session include:

- The premise that water is a food product and the public expect their water supply to have been treated properly so that it does not cause health problems
- The importance of personal hygiene and identification of potential sources of contamination
- Awareness of potential for contamination. Includes personal protective equipment (PPE) and the need for clean boots

- Vehicles - vehicles need to be kept clean and tidy and tools need to be separated. Awareness of where the vehicle has been taken before entering a treatment works e.g. fields, sewage treatment works etc.
- Multi-functional working - water and sewerage working is becoming common for some companies and the associated risks and precautions must be understood
- The potential for and implications of fuel, diesel and chemical contamination of the water supply
- Role of pets in spreading water borne diseases e.g. dogs, cats, horses etc. - ensure that individuals do not wear the same footwear for work
- The importance of disinfection, both in the water treatment process itself and other usage i.e. how chlorine is used to wash boots, clean tools and in repairs, and the correct disposal of chlorine solution
- Awareness and usage of the approved products regulations – why they are important and the consequences of non-compliance for water quality
- The role and powers of regulators and the potential for audit and inspection

Health Screening

A standardised health-screening questionnaire must be completed by any person required to work on restricted operations. This includes staff working on the water network, water treatment works and taking water quality samples etc., i.e. anyone that the water company considers could come in contact with treated water.

Answers on the form that suggest the individual may be carrying a water borne disease will require the individual to be referred to their doctor or occupational health department for checks. The trainer will make the final decision on whether to allow the individual to carry out the training course. The individual must pass the health screening before they can be registered for the National Water Hygiene Card and will not be issued a card until both the health screening and the test have been passed.