



Practical Test N021 Suction Excavator

Test sequence	ACTIVITY GUIDELINES The learner must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all pre-start and running checks before any activity takes place • The shutdown procedures must only be completed by the learner at the end of the test • All additional test requirements can be completed over the period of the test duration
Operator safety & observations isolate services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The suction excavator must be serviceable, meets the current legislation and fitted with a standard suction hose • If excavating around gas / electric mains the air lance and suction nozzle must be made of non-conductive material • The lance man / banks person must be appropriately and suitably qualified to carry out their work • The work area must be thoroughly checked and hazards identified prior to any excavating activities taking place • The selected surface area to be excavated must be adequately broken to enable the lance and the suction excavator to work • Method statements, risk assessments and SSOW must be completed and agreed prior to any excavating activity takes place • A safe working zone must be established prior to any excavating activity taking place, ensure safe position of learner operating remote control
Travelling to work area	The learner must - travel through a restriction
Setting up to excavate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk work area and identify and remove any hazards • Set up exclusion zone • Identify ground stability and condition • Prepare and set up the Suction excavator for excavating duties • Ensured sufficient space to operate suction hose
Excavating tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavate various exploratory holes exposing underground services or excavate a trench exposing underground services safely and efficiently • Fill skip / tank to manufacturers recommendations • Clean work area • Prepare the suction excavator for travel
Dispose material correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove and deposit material from work area and dispose in an agreed position away from the excavation area • Ensure skip / tank is left clean
Shutdown procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suction excavator parked in a safe position with suction hose secure in the sleeve, and the safety lanyard secured, the nozzle is secured, the engine and compressor is off, isolated with the key removed and handed to the instructor
Additional notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A verbal description to the instructor of the pre-start checks would be acceptable if the machine is hot • The operator's manual must be accessible
Specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be sufficient quantity of suitable material to excavate • The ground to be excavated must be suitable and sufficient for the test • The learner must either (a) excavate 2 x exploratory holes -or- (b) excavate a trench minimum depth of 1m deep x 5m in length • The operator should expose at least 3 different types of buried services when excavating • The services should be fully exposed, clean and free of any support • The suction excavator skip must be filled and emptied at least once
Test timings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full test must be completed within 2hrs
Note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that all learners completing basic training receive a minimum 7hr Health, Safety, Environment and Induction Training • Profiled learners opting for the experienced worker route (EWA) must have an in-date card