

Title	Perform grave digging using machinery		
Level	3	Credits	15

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare for and conduct grave excavation using machinery; minimise risk of grave collapse; and clean up and make safe an open grave site.
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Classification	Horticulture > Amenity Horticulture
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation and regulations that must be complied with include but are not limited to:
 - Burial and Cremation Act 1964;
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
 - Land Transport Act 1998;
 - Traffic Regulations 1976;
 - Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999; and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Definitions

A *grave site* is a place of burial, above and below ground, immediately in front of, and including a headstone where a casket or body is buried. The grave site may or may not be formally identified or lined.

Workplace procedures refer to instructions to staff on policy and procedures which are communicated in verbal or written form. These requirements may include but are not limited to – manufacturers' instructions, company safety requirements, and industry codes of practice and standards. Workplace procedures must include legislative requirements.
- 3 Operators must have the necessary driver licence and endorsements for the vehicle being operated and the manner in which it is operated.
- 4 This unit standard does not cover the skills and knowledge needed to drive the machinery used in the context of this unit standard.
- 5 Tools, equipment and machinery may include but are not limited to – spreaders; boards; hydraulic braces; stabilisers; spade; shovel; pick; crowbar; auger; timber tong; sledgehammer; timber mallet; explosive power tool; power saw; hand saw; timber of correct grade, size and type; certified ladder; backhoe/front-end loader; skidsteer loader; excavator; tractor; truck.

- 6 All evidence presented in this unit standard must be in accordance with workplace procedures.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Prepare for and conduct grave excavation using machinery.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Identify and locate grave site.
- 1.2 Prepare and use personal protective equipment.
- Range may include but is not limited to – protective clothing, head protection, foot protection, eye protection, ear protection, sun protection, two-way radio.
- 1.3 Dig graves using machinery to suit dimensions of coffins or caskets.
- 1.4 Assess grave shoring requirements in relation to depth of grave and soil conditions.
- Range soil types may include but are not limited to – sand, clay, rock. soil conditions may include but are not limited to – length of time soil exposed, breakdown of cohesion strength of soil, soil fretting, soil compaction, tension cracks.
- 1.5 Place displaced earth on vehicle, vacant site, or other appropriate location.
- 1.6 Undertake entry and exit to and from confined spaces by means of a certified ladder.
- 1.7 Use tools, equipment, and machinery in accordance with supervisor's instructions.

Outcome 2

Implement strategies to minimise risk of grave collapse.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Maintain surface loadings at levels appropriate for the soil type and condition.
- 2.2 Monitor excavation for grave and identify warning signs of grave collapse.
- Range warning signs may include but is not limited to – fretting from top edge, slump in the surface near an excavation, tension cracks, support timbers bowing or creaking.

2.3 Identify and discuss with supervisor strategies to prevent the grave collapse.

Range may include but is not limited to – shore grave where there is excessive water in the grave or collapse is evident or likely, reducing soil loadings.

2.4 Implement selected strategies.

Range evidence of two strategies is required.

Outcome 3

Clean up and make safe an open grave site for later use.

Performance criteria

3.1 Install and secure a grave cover to ensure public safety.

3.2 Remove tools and tidy area adjacent to grave.

3.3 Assess and address any damage to adjacent graves caused by machinery.

Outcome 4

Clean up and make safe an open grave site for immediate use.

4.1 Remove tools and tidy area adjacent to graves.

4.2 Place grave supports and lowering devices in readiness for the coffin or casket.

4.3 Place protective restraints to limit access to the site when grave is left unattended.

Range may include but is not limited to – sheeting, barricades, temporary fencing, reinforced covers.

Planned review date	31 December 2026
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	20 June 2006	31 December 2024
Review	2	24 February 2022	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0052
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council qualifications@mukatangata.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.