

COURSE 5(i) and 5(ii) – Health & Safety and Grass Cutting**For Courses Based at the Berkshire College (BCA)**

The grass cutting courses have been designed by the **ICCM** in partnership with **BCA** to train, assess and certificate users to an identified health and safety standard. The aim is to develop a process of thought amongst operators that will lead to accident prevention and the provision of a higher standard of service to the bereaved. As well as health and safety implications the course will identify ways and means of protecting turf, nearby memorials and other objects and articles so as to amplify an objective of customer care. Working with machinery in close proximity to memorials and in a public open space is considered a fairly high risk operation and it is vital that staff engaged in this area of work are trained and employers can prove competency amongst staff.

Pre-start checks and routine maintenance of grass cutting equipment is covered in detail in these courses and will assist with reducing machinery downtime and a higher standard of appearance of grass areas.

Candidates will be assessed on their competence to operate machinery during practical assessment sessions. The Berkshire College Instructors are trained to help those with learning difficulties therefore the ability for candidates to read and write is not a specific requirement.

Course 5(i) - Pedestrian Mowers and Strimmers

This course covers the operation and maintenance of rotary and cylinder pedestrian mowers and strimmers. As with all COTS courses the sensitivity of the cemetery environment is considered and included with an improved appreciation of customer care and raising standards being targets.

Working in confined spaces with machinery between potentially unstable and hazardous memorials is a fairly high risk operation with discussion being prompted on ways to eliminate, significantly reduce or control risks leading to a better understanding of health and safety matters.

Course 5(ii) – Ride-on Mowers

This course covers both rotary and cylinder mowers and all health and safety and customer care aspects mentioned above.

The use of ride-on machines is particularly dangerous when working on sloping ground with this operational aspect being covered fully.

For On-site Courses

Contact Martin Clark, COTS Manager at Martin martiniccm@gmail.com for a quotation.

PLEASE NOTE that City & Guilds accredited courses can only be arranged at BCA. On site courses will not carry accreditation.