Apprenticeship Training Programme

Phase 1: With Employer
Induction Training
Introduction to Health & Safety
Introduction to Tools & Equipment
Introduction to Basic Skills

Phase 2: Delivered in Training Centre (20 weeks)
Course Content:
Induction
Bench Fitting
Engine/Fuel
Basic Electricity/Circuits
Transmission
Steering, Brakes & Wheels
Starting/Ignition Systems
Hydraulics
Farm Machinery
Introduction to Computers
Related Theory

Phase 3: With Employer
Work Based Training and Assessments

Phase 4: Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)
Course Content:
Engines
Brakes
Electrics & Electronics
Tractor Hydraulics
Steering & Suspension
Farm Machinery
Related Theory

Phase 5: With Employer
Work Based Training and Assessments

Phase 6: Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)
Course Content:
Engine & Fuel
Transmission & Steering
Electrics & Electronics
Farm Machinery
Operator's Cabs
Customer Service
Related Theory

Phase 7: With Employer
Work Based Training and Assessments

The overall duration of this apprenticeship is a minimum of 4 years provided all phases are successfully completed. On successful completion of the programme the learner is awarded a Level 6 Advanced Certificate Craft – Agricultural Mechanics.

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For further information please contact your local Education & Training Board Training Centre or log onto www.SOLAS.ie

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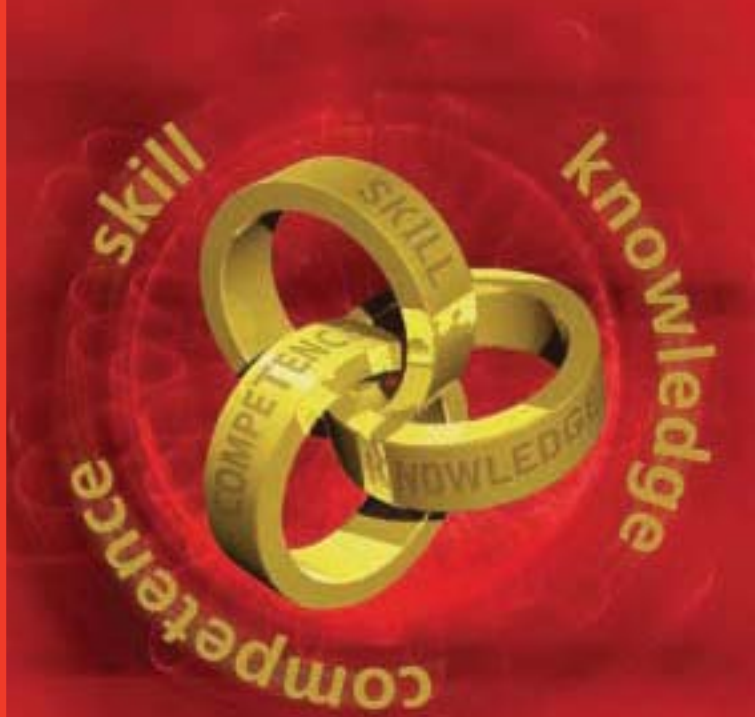
The Craft of Agricultural Mechanics



Apprenticeship
KNOWLEDGE | SKILLS | COMPETENCE

What is an Agricultural Mechanic?

Agricultural mechanics are concerned with fault-finding, repair, overhaul and maintenance of farm tractors and farm machinery. These farm machines could include forage harvesters, balers, bale wrappers, mowers, combine harvesters, crop-sprayers, fertiliser distributors, diet feeders, tillage and slurry handling equipment.

Their skills overlap with those of other crafts within the motor family of crafts, therefore they are equipped to carry out some repair work on ATVs (All Terrain Vehicle- Quads) light and heavy commercial vehicles, earth moving equipment, forklift trucks and other vehicles.

Besides the normal agricultural tractor and machinery garages, some large agricultural contracting firms employ their own agricultural mechanics.

Agricultural mechanics require many skills including:

- Working with a variety of specialised hand and power tools and measuring devices
- Knowledge of a range of vehicle systems
- Performing a range of technical tasks
- Working with technical manuals and specifications
- Planning and organising work schedules
- Inspecting and testing of systems and fault diagnosis
- Performing routine maintenance and repairs on in-vehicle systems

Personal Qualities and Skills

As a Agricultural Mechanic you will need to be physically active and to be able to work with your hands. An awareness of health and safety and good housekeeping is essential as well as attention to detail.

The Agricultural Mechanic must have the ability to:

- Plan and organise
- Communicate effectively
- Solve problems
- Work independently and as part of a team
- Show a positive attitude
- Explain faults and repairs to customers
- Rectify faults and repairs quickly
- Recognise the need for good customer relations
- Demonstrate good work practices including time keeping, tidiness, responsibility, quality awareness and safety awareness

Aspects of work

- Learning and developing new craft-related skills, knowledge and competencies
- Working with and learning from experienced Craftspersons
- Comply with Health and Safety requirements
- Working with vehicles
- Accepting responsibility for the quality of own work
- Being physically active
- Using the special service tools, materials and equipment
- Reading and interpreting technical instructions and diagrams
- Diagnose and repair mechanical and electrical systems
- Dismantling, examining and re-assembling mechanical systems and components
- Testing electrical and electronic systems and components
- Record and communicate accurate work records or reports
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time
- Learning how machines work
- Repairing machines and components
- Being responsible for controlling or adjusting equipment
- Driving vehicles
- Working evenings or weekends
- Passing all your phase exams (theory, practicals, skills demonstration)
- Earning as you learn

How to become an Apprentice

- You must obtain employment as an apprentice in your chosen occupation.
- The employer must be approved to train apprentices.
- The employer must register you as an apprentice within two weeks of recruitment.
- In certain crafts, apprenticeship applicants are required to pass a colour vision test approved by SOLAS.

Entry Requirements

The minimum age at which the employment of an apprentice may commence is 16 years of age.

The minimum educational requirements are:

1. Grade D in five subjects in the Department of Education & Skills Junior Certificate Examination or an approved equivalent,

or

2. The successful completion of an approved Pre-Apprenticeship course

or

3. Three years' work experience gained over sixteen years of age in a relevant designated industrial activity as SOLAS shall deem acceptable

It should be noted that these are the current approved **minimum educational requirements** for apprenticeship programmes, however, previous experience of the following subjects would be an advantage but not essential: Mathematics, Technical Drawing/Graphics, Metalwork, Technology and Physics

Opportunities on Qualification

On successful completion of the apprenticeship programme, apprentices are qualified to work within the recognised trade or profession.
Where apprentices and craftspersons have the necessary ability, initiative and basic qualifications, opportunities are available for advancement.
These include advanced technology courses and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, Schools of Management and Professional Institutes.
Many apprentices use their apprenticeship qualification as a platform to launch careers such as engineers, managers, owners of businesses, teachers and instructors amongst others.