

**LEVEL 2 AWARD  
IN  
CHAINSAW AND RELATED OPERATIONS (QCF)  
  
CS47 SAFE USE OF A CHAINSAW FROM MOBILE  
ELEVATED WORK PLATFORMS  
(pre-requisite CS30.1, CS30.2, CS31)**

Maximum recommended guide bar length: 380mm (15")

**ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE**

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# NPTC LEVEL 2 AWARD IN CHAINSAW AND RELATED OPERATIONS

## CS47 SAFE USE OF A CHAINSAW FROM MOBILE ELEVATED WORK PLATFORMS

### Introduction

The scheme is administered by NPTC.

NPTC will:

- Publish
  - scheme regulations
  - assessment schedule
  - assessment material
- Approve centres to co-ordinate and administer the scheme
- Set standards for the training of Verifiers and Assessors
- Recruit, train and deploy Verifiers
- Manage verification
- Issue certificates to successful Candidates

The Certificate of Competence/ID Card

Certificates of Competence/ID Cards will be awarded to Candidates who achieve the required level of competence in the Units to which their Certificate relates.

### Instruction

Attendance at a course of instruction is not a pre-requisite to an application for an assessment but potential Candidates are strongly advised to ensure that they are up to the standard that will be expected of them when they are assessed.

NPTC does **not** hold a register of instructors; however instruction will normally be available from recognised training providers and/or centres of further or higher education active in the areas covered by this certificate. Further information on training may be obtained from the local Assessment Centre.

### Access to Assessment

Assessment Centres will be responsible for arranging assessment on behalf of a Candidate. Assessment may only be carried out by an Assessor approved by NPTC for that scheme. Under no circumstances can either instructors involved in the preparation of candidates, or the candidates work place supervisors, or anyone else who might have a vested interest in the outcome, carry out the assessment.

The minimum age limit for Candidates taking certificates of competence is 16 years. There is no upper age limit.

### Assessment

Assessment is a process by which it is confirmed that the Candidate is competent in the Units within the award to which the assessment relates. It is a process of collecting evidence about his/her capabilities and judging whether that evidence is sufficient to attribute competence.

The candidate must be registered through an NPTC approved Assessment Centre for this qualification prior to assessment.

The schedule of assessment contains the criteria relating to:

- Observation of practical performance
- Assessment of knowledge and understanding

When all the criteria within the Units for which assessment has been sought have been completed the result(s) will be recorded on the Candidate Assessment Report Form(s).

### Performance Evaluation

The result of each assessment activity is evaluated against the following criteria:

- 4 = Meets or exceeds the assessment criteria by displaying a level of practical performance and/or underpinning knowledge, with no 'minor' or 'critical' faults. (Competent).
- 3 = Meets the requirements of the assessment criteria for both the practical performance and the underpinning knowledge, with some 'minor' faults but no 'critical' faults. (Competent).
- 2 = Does not fully satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria, being unable to perform the practical task satisfactorily or being deficient in underpinning knowledge leading to the recording of minor faults. (Not yet competent).
- 1 = Does not satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria, being unable to perform the practical task satisfactorily or safely or being deficient in underpinning knowledge leading to the recording of a critical fault. (Not yet competent).

A list of registered Assessment Centres is available from NPTC. ([www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk))

### Verification

Verification is a process of monitoring assessment; it is an essential check to confirm that the assessment procedures are being carried out in the way that NPTC has laid down. The overall aim of verification is to establish a system of quality assurance that is acceptable in terms of both credibility and cost effectiveness.

Approved Assessors will be subject to a visit by the Verifier at a time when assessments are being undertaken.

A selection of assessment reports completed by the assessor will be evaluated by NPTC.

Compliance with the verification requirements is a pre-requisite for Assessors remaining on NPTC's list of approved assessors.

### Complaints and Appeals

NPTC and its Assessment Centres have a formal Complaints and Appeals procedure. In the event of any dissatisfaction with the arrangements and conditions of assessment, the candidate should first contact the Assessment Centre through whom the assessment was arranged and submit the complaint in writing.

### Guidance for Candidates and Assessors

#### Safe Practice

**At all times during the assessment, the chainsaw and MEWP must be operated in a safe manner in accordance with industry best practice.**

1. Assessors must hold a current 'First Aid at Work' Certificate.
2. It is strongly recommended that Candidates hold at least a recent, recognised 'Emergency First Aid' Training Certificate.
3. All chain saws used in the assessments must comply with Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG) Safety Guide 301 or 308 (2008) in terms of safety features, and be a model and size suited to the task(s) required.
4. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times. All PPE used must comply with AFAG Safety Guides 301, 401, 403, 801, 308 (2008) Health and Safety Executive publications and current legal requirements in terms of specification and use (including MISC 614 regarding MEWPs). Chin straps must be worn with safety helmets
5. A First Aid kit meeting current regulations, of the appropriate size for the number of persons on site, must be available.
6. The candidate must be equipped with a personal first aid kit.
7. There must be a competent person, conversant with the necessary controls, on site at all times to carry out rescue from the ground if required (this may be the assessor)
8. The Assessor must ensure a Risk Assessment has been carried out, and sufficient control measures implemented. In particular, the location of the site and weather conditions should be assessed, details of access, etc, which may be required by emergency services must be noted, as well as the nearest Accident and Emergency Hospital Unit. The means of contacting the emergency services must be established. Manual handling techniques must comply with current legislation.
9. Any necessary permissions must have been granted, and notifications made as appropriate: (e.g. Local Planning Authority, Forestry Commission, Forest Enterprise, Highways Authority, Private owners, Statutory undertakers, Police, etc).
10. All equipment being used for this assessment must comply with relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998.
11. Information may be sought from the relevant operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.
12. It is the responsibility of the Assessor and the Candidate to ensure that any additional requirements and provisions are met as relevant to this qualification.
13. Candidates must ensure they are complying with the relevant legislative requirements applicable to the work being carried out.
14. If required relevant records must be kept
15. Appropriate steps should be taken to maintain effective teamwork in respect of other persons on site during the assessment. This may include taking steps to ensure effective communication and safety precautions.
16. At all times during the operation, candidates must act in a way so as not to endanger themselves, the assessor or any other person or equipment. Work must be carried out to achieve the requirements of the assessment criteria in accordance with all relevant and current legislation and good practice guidance (e.g. INDG317, Chainsaws at Work, AFAG Guides 301, 308 and 403).

**If these conditions are not observed this may result in the Candidate not meeting the required standard.**

### Learning Outcomes

The candidate will be able to:

- Carry out pre-use inspection and set up prior to using a MEWP
- Set up a MEWP for work
- Achieve a safe working position with the MEWP
- Operate a chainsaw from the MEWP to remove lateral limbs
- Operate a chainsaw from the MEWP to remove vertical stem sections

All activities within the assessment are mandatory unless otherwise stated in the text.

### Guidance Notes for Candidates and Assessors

The assessment is divided in to 3 **compulsory** parts:

1. Carry out pre-work operational checks and set up
2. Operate a chainsaw from the platform to remove lateral limbs.
3. Operate a chainsaw from the platform to remove vertical stem sections.

Candidates must successfully achieve all assessment activities (unless otherwise specified) in all three parts.

### Pre-requisites

Prior to taking this assessment, candidates must first have achieved units **CS30.1**, **CS30.2** and **CS31** from the NPTC Level 2 Award in Chainsaw and Related Operations (QCF) or NPTC level 2 Certificate of Competence in Chainsaw and Related Operations.

Candidates must also hold a current suitable competence certificate in operating the MEWP that is going to be used for the assessment. This could be the "NPTC Level 2 Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use and Operation of Mobile Elevated Work Platforms" or an alternative nationally recognised certificate as agreed by NPTC. Assessors must have sight of this prior to commencing assessment.

### Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) – credit value

The Award in Safe Use of a Chainsaw from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) has a credit value of 2 credits on the QCF.

### Assessment and site requirements:

- An experienced ground person must work under the direction of the candidate (the Assessor may act as the ground person).

- The assessment should be undertaken on a medium to large sized open grown tree(s), with sufficient side branches for cutting, at a suitable level and vertical stem sections at a suitable height.
- The candidate should be equipped with a top or rear\* handled chainsaw in good condition with a maximum recommended guide bar length of 380mm (15"). **Any candidate presenting themselves for assessment using a top handled chainsaw must have achieved NPTC unit CS39. NB Achieving CS47 will not in itself imply competence in the use of a top handled chainsaw**  
*It is accepted that top handled chainsaws are often used for working from a MEWP due to their light weight and manoeuvrability however, they must be used two handed at all times and the operator must be aware of the associated additional risks*
- The candidate should be equipped with sufficient fuel and oil, appropriate to the make and model of chainsaw.
- The candidate should ensure that warning signs are erected and the worksite is cordoned off as appropriate.
- A suitable pulling rope should be available for the assessment of unit 3.
- A spare working saw should be available.

#### **Validation of Equipment**

Manufacturer's instruction book must be available for the MEWP being used for assessment.

Vehicles must comply with Department of Transport and Road Traffic Acts where relevant.

Any MEWP complying with legal requirements is acceptable for the test, provided it is suitably equipped for **all** test items to be carried out.

The MEWP and the work restraint system must have a current 6 month thorough examination certificate as per LOLER requirements.

Part 1 – Carry out pre-work operational checks and set up	
Assessment Activity	Assessment Criteria
1. Inspect the site prior to starting work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walk site and identify hazards</li> <li>- Assess the risks</li> <li>- Remove hazard or implement appropriate control measures</li> <li>- Confirm that site is acceptable for the operation</li> <li>- Report to the appropriate person if site or equipment is unsuitable</li> </ul>
2. Select and wear personal protective equipment (PPE, safety clothing)	<p>PPE is subject to legislative/ HSE requirements and risk assessment but will normally include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chainsaw safety trousers</li> <li>- Chainsaw safety boots</li> <li>- Protective gloves</li> <li>- Safety helmet, with chin strap</li> <li>- Eye and ear protection</li> <li>- Non snag outer clothing</li> <li>- Work restraint system (e.g. harness and adjustable lanyard)</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate knowledge of planning the operation including emergency procedures  Demonstrate knowledge of emergency procedures for power failure in MEWP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location details</li> <li>- Nearest accident and emergency hospital</li> <li>- Access (Public road/ 4x4/ air ambulance)</li> <li>- Contact details</li> <li>- Provision for aerial rescue</li> <li>- Qualified first aider on site</li> <li>- Public access and/or traffic control</li> <li>- Exclusion zone set up</li> <li>- Weather condition requirements for safe work</li> <li>- Procedure for getting MEWP safely to the ground without power is explained or demonstrated</li> </ul>
4. Perform a hazard evaluation of the tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The hazard evaluation could include</li> <li>- Dead wood</li> <li>- Broken branches</li> <li>- Targets and obstacles underneath the tree</li> <li>- The presence of power lines or telephone wires</li> </ul>
5. Demonstrate knowledge of environmental considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oil/ fuel spillage</li> <li>- Blocking of water course</li> <li>- Bats and Bat roosts</li> <li>- Nesting Birds</li> </ul>
6. Set out warning signs and barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Erect signs where appropriate advising the public of hazards</li> <li>- Erect barriers where necessary to exclude the public and animals</li> <li>- Deploy a banks men if required</li> <li>- Implement suitable controls to protect the operator</li> </ul>
7. Carry out routine inspection of MEWP prior to use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carry out pre-start checks in accordance with manufacturers instructions</li> <li>- Report findings in accordance with work place procedures</li> </ul>
8. Rig for work	<p>Ensure that control measures are implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hazard lights are operating</li> <li>- Spreader plates are positioned</li> <li>- MEWP is set level</li> <li>- Check operation of all controls</li> <li>- Safety cut out switches are functioning</li> <li>- Check controls for lowering the platform from the ground are functioning</li> <li>- Position of overhead potential hazards are identified. Safe working distances understood</li> <li>- Position of underground services are identified. Reference to HSG-7 if required</li> <li>- Ground conditions checked for stability</li> <li>- Ensure that position of MEWP is as per manufacturer's recommendations</li> <li>- Position MEWP correctly for effective and safe working</li> <li>- Check wind speed is safe for MEWP use</li> </ul>

**Part 2 – Operate a chainsaw from the platform to remove lateral limbs.**

<b>Assessment Activity</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria:</b>
1. Operate platform to achieve work position	<p>Work position for cutting attained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chainsaw warmed up before leaving the ground</li> <li>- Saw switched off whilst position attained</li> <li>- Work restraint system connected</li> <li>- Ensure that SWL is not exceeded</li> <li>- Establish and maintain effective communication</li> <li>- Smooth use of platform controls</li> <li>- Operator maintains awareness of activity below</li> <li>- Avoid damage to platform or boom</li> </ul>
2. Remove limb(s) using a chainsaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chainsaw secured to platform or work restraint harness with a breakaway lanyard</li> <li>- Operator in a balanced and stable position to use the saw</li> <li>- Work position adjusted as required</li> <li>- Warmed saw started safely with chain brake applied</li> </ul> <p>Limbs and limb sections should be removed taking the following points into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate working position attained</li> <li>- Safety zones are observed</li> <li>- Characteristics and properties of the wood allowed for</li> <li>- Manageable sections selected</li> <li>- Two hands on chainsaw whilst cutting</li> <li>- Side or reducing cuts used where appropriate</li> <li>- Appropriate hinge left on sink cut sections</li> <li>- Position of cuts on step cut sections and complete overlap of cuts achieved</li> <li>- Chain brake applied or saw switched off whilst breaking and casting sections</li> <li>- Hand held sections are cast into a predetermined “drop-zone”</li> <li>- The branch collar and/or branch bark ridge is identified when pruning</li> <li>- The pruning cut is left as smooth as possible</li> <li>- Platform floor kept free from debris</li> <li>- Avoid damage to platform, boom, or vehicle</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the procedure for removing a trapped saw	<p>The procedure for releasing a trapped saw:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Switch off the engine</li> <li>- Attach the saw to a suitable anchor point</li> <li>- Pull the saw from the kerf, lifting the branch as necessary</li> <li>- If necessary, use a second saw to release the trapped saw, cutting a safe distance away from the trapped saw</li> </ul>

**Part 3 – Operate a chainsaw from the platform to remove vertical stem sections**

<b>Assessment Activity</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria:</b>
1. Remove vertical stem sections using a chainsaw	<p>Vertical stem sections should be removed taking the following points into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Characteristics and properties of the wood allowed for</li> <li>- Manageable sections selected</li> <li>- Work position adjusted as required</li> <li>- Correct position and depth of cuts</li> <li>- Accuracy of cuts to ensure maximum control</li> <li>- Two hands on chainsaw whilst cutting</li> <li>- Chain brake applied or saw switched off whilst removing sections</li> <li>- A pulling line used if appropriate, to avoid excessive pushing from within MEWP</li> <li>- Position and method of attaching rope to the section when required</li> <li>- Communication with ground worker</li> <li>- The operator must direct the ground operations</li> <li>- Platform floor kept free from debris</li> </ul>
2. Lower the platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lower platform in a controlled manner</li> <li>- Stow platform and place/ lock in travel position</li> </ul>
3. Prepare for transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resulting arisings dealt with as per landowners instructions.</li> <li>- Tools and PPE stowed safely</li> <li>- MEWP prepared for travel</li> </ul>