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**LEVEL 2**

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE**  
**IN**  
**CHAIN SAW AND RELATED OPERATIONS**

**ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE**

**CS34**

**PROCESS INDIVIDUAL WINDBLOWN TREES**  
(Pre requisite: CS30, CS31 and CS32)

This unit covers single windblown stems which are still attached to the root plate

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## NPTC LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE IN CHAIN SAW AND RELATED OPERATIONS

### 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.

### Safe 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 in terms of safety features, and be a model and size suited to the task(s) required.
4. Recommended guide bar lengths should be observed, although variations may be accepted at the discretion of the Assessor where this is appropriate to the task.
5. Candidates should be familiar with the saw that they are going to use.
6. A spare working chainsaw must be available
7. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times. All PPE used must comply with AFAG Safety Guides 301, 401, 801, Health and Safety Executive publications and current legal requirements in terms of specification and use.
8. A First Aid kit meeting current regulations, of the appropriate size for the number of persons on site, must be available.
9. The candidate must be equipped with a personal first aid kit.
10. 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.
11. 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).
12. All equipment being used for this assessment must comply with relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998.
13. Information may be sought from the relevant operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.
14. The current Regulations for transport, handling and storage of fuel and oils must be complied with.
15. Provision must be made to avoid the risk of environmental pollution.
16. 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.

### 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.

For further information on NPTC's Equal Opportunities Policy and Complaints and Appeals Procedures, please refer to [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)

### CS34 – PROCESS INDIVIDUAL WINDBLOWN TREES

#### Learning Outcomes

The candidate will be able to:

1. Restrain root plates and trees under horizontal and vertical stress
2. Process wind blown and wind damaged trees

The assessment contains 1 Unit CS34 (compulsory):

Unit 34. Sever individual windblown stems and use a winch to restrain root plates or side tension

Candidates must successfully achieve all Assessment Activities unless otherwise specified.

#### Assessment and site requirements

- Hand or vehicle mounted Winch and ancillary equipment complying with current legislation
- Minimum of three recently blown (within twelve months) trees/root plates under tension one at least with a minimum diameter of 15" (Simulation may be necessary on side tension and forward leaning root plates)
- Root plate severing must be demonstrated on a stem bigger than guide bar length.
- Rear handled chain saw in good condition [maximum recommended guide bar length: 380mm (15")] appropriate to size of tree
- Sufficient fuel and oil for the assessment, appropriate to saw model
- Appropriate aids (e.g. felling lever)
- An adequate tool kit for field maintenance
- In addition to the relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998, any ancillary equipment used for this assessment must also comply with relevant requirements of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998 where applicable.

When crosscutting timber of high intrinsic value, measuring and marking of best logs by a third party is acceptable

<b>Unit 34: Sever Individual windblown stems and use a winch to restrain a root plate or side tension</b>	
<b>ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT CRITERIA</b>
1. Demonstrate knowledge of what is involved in a Risk Assessment	<p>Risk Assessment must be specific to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site</li> <li>- Task</li> <li>- Machine</li> </ul> <p>Risk Assessment must contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identified hazards</li> <li>- Evaluated risk</li> <li>- Control measures to be implemented</li> <li>- Emergency procedures</li> </ul> <p>- Risk Assessment must be communicated to operator</p>
2. Demonstrate knowledge of safety considerations and legal requirements when dealing with individual windblown trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk assessment must be carried out.</li> <li>- All works adjacent to public highways must comply with road traffic and signage regulations</li> <li>- Responsibility to fellow workers and general public</li> </ul> <p>Management of Health and Safety at work regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equipment should be regularly inspected</li> <li>- All components in a system should be compatible</li> <li>- Risk zone when winching must be identified</li> <li>- Communication between operators established</li> </ul> <p>Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Personal Protective clothing must be worn</li> <li>- Operators must be adequately trained</li> <li>- Operators must have a range of appropriate aid tools</li> </ul>
3. Demonstrate knowledge of legal requirements and environmental restraints and state when applied to wind blow under emergency situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Felling licence regulation -Forest commission</li> <li>- Tree preservation Orders - Local Authority</li> <li>- Conservation regulations - County wildlife trust/English Nature</li> <li>- Weather</li> <li>- Forest and Soil Guidelines + Forest and water guide lines</li> <li>- Plant and equipment compatibility to site</li> <li>- Timing</li> <li>- Nature reserves</li> <li>- Archaeology</li> </ul>
4. Select and wear Personal Protective Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chainsaw safety trousers</li> <li>- Chainsaw safety boots</li> <li>- Safety helmet with eye and ear protection</li> <li>- Chainsaw gloves or mitts</li> <li>- Non-sag outer clothing</li> <li>- Personal first aid kit</li> <li>- Whistle</li> </ul>
5. Prepare the site to sever individual windblown stems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remove debris from around the of the tree and compact vegetation to facilitate .</li> <li>- Inspect the tree and adjacent trees for dead wood and insecure branches.</li> <li>- Ensure no Overhead Power Lines are within a length of twice the height of the tree to be .</li> <li>- Ensure no unauthorised person is within two tree lengths distance.</li> </ul>

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
<p>6. Use a winch to control root plate and or side tension</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of work methods.</p> <p>Demonstrate knowledge of when offset winching should be deployed</p> <p>Restrain a root plate /or side tension</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signs of damage or fatigue</li> <li>- Compatibility between strops chains winch rope cable fittings.</li> <li>- Winch overload prevention device</li> <li>- Compatibility of equipment components</li> <li>- Planning of site and location of any offsets required</li> <li>- Communication between winch operator and the candidate in the case of vehicle mounted winches</li> <li>- Placing of strops on tree/root plate</li> <li>- Suitability of any anchor points used</li> <li>- Selection of anchor point on stem as applicable</li> <li>- Method to prevent cable cutting through root plate</li> <li>- Placing of off set if required</li> <li>- If terrain or safety factors prevent a straight line pull</li> <li>- Tension cable correctly</li> <li>- Position of strops in relation to cuts</li> <li>- Identify risk zone</li> <li>- Root plate restrained</li> </ul>
<p>7. Sever tree from root plate</p> <p>Demonstrate Knowledge of when it is appropriate to use aid tools</p> <p>Demonstrate Knowledge of the procedure to follow when recovering a trapped saw</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cut far side first (reducing cut)</li> <li>- Relieving cut made in to compression wood</li> <li>- Severing cut made in to tension wood leaving a minimum step of 25mm where there is a risk of sudden movement to leave the saw on the part that will move the least</li> <li>- Tree is severed from the root plate and left in a safe and stable condition or identified and clearly marked as a hazard</li> <li>- When handling small size produce</li> <li>- To release compression</li> <li>- Use of lever to ensure stem severed</li> <li>- Engine switched off</li> <li>- Chain brake on</li> <li>- Timber kerf levered open</li> <li>- Saw with drawn</li> <li>- If other saw is used to free saw it can only be used to within 12"/300 of trapped saw</li> </ul>
<p>8. De-tension and dismantle a winch system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any tension in the system should be slowly released</li> <li>- Components recovered checked and stored for transport</li> </ul>