

LEVEL 2

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

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

CS35

PROCESS MULTIPLE WINDBLOWN TREES
(Pre requisite: CS30, CS31, CS32, CS34)

This unit covers multiple windblown and broken stems, typically
in a windblown crop situation

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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)

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

At all times during the assessment, the chainsaw and other equipment must be operated in a safe manner in accordance with industry best practice, whatever the task being carried out.

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.

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

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

CS35 - PROCESS MULTIPLE WINDBLOWN TREES

Learning Outcomes

The candidate will be able to:

1. Process multiple wind blown trees
2. Fell leaning, half blown and hung tree section

The assessment contains 1 Unit CS35 (compulsory):

Unit 35: Sever multiple windblown stem: fell Leaning half blown, broken stem and half hung tree sections

Candidates must successfully achieve all Assessment Activities unless otherwise specified.

Assessment and site requirements

- Minimum of 9 interwoven windblown trees 2 with a diameter of over 15" and a minimum of one leaning or half blown tree.
- 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.

Unit 35. Sever multiple windblown stems and fell Leaning half blown broken stems and hung sections	
ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
1. Prepare the site to sever multiple windblown stems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove debris from around the stem of the tree and compact vegetation to facilitate severing. - Identify and prepare escape route(s). - Inspect the tree and adjacent trees for dead wood and insecure branches. - Ensure no Overhead Power Lines are within a length of twice the height of the tree to be severed. - Ensure no unauthorised person is within two tree lengths distance.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of safety factors to be considered when felling leaning and half blown trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unexpected movement of trees - Unexpected movement of root plates - Sudden splitting or breaking of trees - Assessment of weight - Checking stability and strength of root plate
3. Fell leaning or half blown trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure adequate escape routes - Select appropriate felling cuts (dog tooth, /Boring or double Vee) <p>Appropriate take down method selected if required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter box - Use of felling lever/turning hook or strap - Use of winch or machine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anticipate movement of root plate when felling
4. Demonstrate knowledge of felling broken trees and hung sections Demonstrate knowledge of methods of dealing with a broken tree section lodged in or on a standing tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficulty in establishing felling momentum - Broken sections falling out of trees - Lack of directional control with bare poles - Sections bouncing when felled - Risk of structural damage to timber giving unpredictable felling response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attach winch cable to broken section and pull out if possible - Fell to side ensuring that hung section is on opposite side from operator (choose felling direction to minimise risk) - Severing broken top at point where it reaches the ground
5. Sever trees from roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure any stems/root plates with winch that may expose operator to risk - Continually monitor escape routes - Make reducing cuts as appropriate from compression wood side <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make relieving cut in to compression wood - Make severing cut in to tension wood leaving a step a minimum of 25mm where there is a risk of sudden movement to leave the saw on the part that will move the least - Root plate made safe
6. Demonstrate knowledge of severing multiple stems in the following situations: Working on slopes Working with a variety of different species and/or damaged timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likely movement of root plates - Likely movement of tree sections - Poor footing - Working topside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leave timber length - Winch restraint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sudden splitting - Speed of cut - Species being cut - Shattered/internal damage to timber