



Registered Charity No. 1096429

STONELEIGH PARK, WARWICKSHIRE CV8 2LG

Tel: 024 7685 7300

Fax: 024 7669 6128

Email: information@nptc.org.uk

LEVEL 2

CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE IN CHAINSAW AND RELATED OPERATIONS ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

CS47

USE OF A CHAINSAW FROM A MOBILE ELEVATED WORK PLATFORM (MEWP)

(pre-requisite CS30.1, CS30.2, CS31)

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

NPTC LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE IN CHAINSAW AND RELATED OPERATIONS

CS47 - USE OF A CHAINSAW FROM A MOBILE ELEVATED WORK PLATFORM

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.

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 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, Health and Safety Executive publications and current legal requirements in terms of specification and use (including MISC 614 regarding MEWPs).
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. 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.
8. 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).
9. 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.
10. Information may be sought from the relevant operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.
11. 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.

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

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 Certificate of Competence in Chainsaw and Related Operations.

Candidates must also hold a 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. Assessors must have sight of this prior to commencing assessment. Candidates who cannot demonstrate this should arrange to be assessed in the NPTC MEWP qualification by an approved NPTC assessor, at the same time as this unit.

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 hold the relevant units that demonstrate they are competent in its use (i.e. CS39). 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.

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 must have evidence of thorough examination under LOLER requirements (e.g. certificate or decal on machine)

Part 1 – Carry out pre-work operational checks and set up	
Assessment Activity	Assessment Criteria
1. Demonstrate knowledge of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required when using a chainsaw from a MEWP	The PPE as stated in the AFAG safety guide and risk assessment should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chainsaw boots - Chainsaw gloves - Head, ear and eye protection - Chainsaw trousers - Non-snag outer clothing - Personal first aid kit - Work restraint system (harness + lanyard) - Upper body chainsaw protection may also be desirable
2. Demonstrate knowledge of what is involved in a Risk Assessment	Risk Assessment must be specific to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site - Task - Machine Risk Assessment must contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified hazards - Evaluated risk - Control measures to be implemented - Emergency procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk Assessment must be communicated to operator
3. Demonstrate knowledge of Emergency Procedures planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OS map Grid Reference - Location name - Designated meeting place - Nearest main road junction - Nearest accident and emergency hospital - Type of access - Public road - 4x4 vehicles - Suitable air ambulance landing area - Own contact telephone number
4. Check site for hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walk the site and remove or mark hazards - Confirm that the condition of the site is acceptable for the operation to take place - Report to the appropriate person if the site condition is unsuitable
5. Set out warning signs and barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erect signs where appropriate advising the public of hazards - Erect barriers where necessary to exclude the public and animals - Implement suitable controls to protect the operator
6. Carry out routine inspection of MEWP prior to use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out pre-start checks in accordance with manufacturers instructions Check: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fluid levels as appropriate - MEWP for roadworthiness as appropriate - Inspect platform as per manufacturers handbook - Safe Working Load (SWL) mark - Warning signs - Emergency lowering function
7. Rig for work	Ensure that control measures are implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PPE is worn - Hazard lights are operating - Out of level alarms are functioning - Check operation of all controls - Safety cut out switches are functioning - Position of overhead potential hazards are identified - Position of underground services are identified - Check ground conditions for stability - Check that position of MEWP is as per manufacturer's recommendations - Position MEWP correctly for effective and safe working

Part 2 – Operate a chainsaw from the platform to remove lateral limbs.	
Assessment Activity	Assessment Criteria:
8. Operate platform to achieve work position	<p>Work position for cutting attained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chainsaw warmed up before leaving the ground - Work restraint system connected - Saw switched off whilst position attained - Use of platform controls - Establish and maintain effective communication - Operator maintains awareness of activity below - Ensure that SWL is not exceeded - Avoid damage to platform, boom, or vehicle
9. Remove limb(s) using a chainsaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chainsaw secured to platform by an appropriate means - Saw released from strop if applicable - Operator in a balanced and stable position to use the saw - Work position adjusted as required - Warmed saw started safely with chain brake applied <p>Limbs and limb sections should be removed taking the following points into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate working position attained - Ensure safety zones are observed - Characteristics and properties of the wood allowed for - Manageable sections selected - Two hands on chainsaw whilst cutting - Side or reducing cuts used where appropriate - Appropriate hinge left on sink cut sections - Position of cuts on step cut sections and complete overlap of cuts achieved - Chain brake applied or saw switched off whilst breaking and casting sections - Hand held sections are cast into a predetermined “drop-zone” - The branch collar and/or branch bark ridge is identified when pruning - The pruning cut is left as smooth as possible - Platform floor kept free from debris - Platform not to be used to lower debris
10. 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"> - Switch off the engine - Attach the saw to a suitable anchor point - Pull the saw from the kerf, lifting the branch as necessary - If necessary, use a second saw to release the trapped saw, cutting a minimum of 300mm (12”) away from the trapped saw

Part 3 – Operate a chainsaw from the platform to remove vertical stem sections	
Assessment Activity	Assessment Criteria:
11. 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"> - Characteristics and properties of the wood allowed for - Manageable sections selected - Work position adjusted as required - Correct position and depth of cuts - Accuracy of cuts to ensure maximum control - Two hands on chainsaw whilst cutting - Chain brake applied or saw switched off whilst removing sections - A pulling line used if appropriate, to avoid excessive pushing from within MEWP - Position and method of attaching rope to the section if required - Communication with ground worker - The operator must direct the ground operations - Platform floor kept free from debris - Platform not to be used to lower debris
12. Lower the platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower platform slowly and carefully - Stow platform and place/lock in travel position