

PRACTICAL ASSESSOR GUIDANCE

ECC 2: Basic Felling

Recommended guide bar size is between 12"-15" maximum.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
What the chainsaw operator must be able to do:		
1. Safeguard and maintain your own health and safety and that of those likely to be affected by your work	Assessor to visually observe PPE <i>When starting and checking operational functions of saw, full PPE as outlined in national safety guidance or manufacture handbook MUST be worn</i> <i>Candidate to explain why the PPE is required</i>	PPE in accordance with health and safety requirements and Risk Assessment and manufactures handbook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chainsaw safety trousers - Chainsaw safety boots - Safety helmet - Eye & ear protection - Non-snap outer clothing - Personal First Aid Kit
2. Take appropriate action in the event of unforeseen circumstances	Candidate to identify hazards relevant to the site and trees to be worked on in accordance with manufactures handbook and national standards	RISKASSESSMENT METHODSTATEMENT EMERGENCY PLANNING
3. Prepare the tree for felling by safe brashing		Remove low branches taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct "break-in" - Position of the saw in relation to the operator, bar on opposite side of stem - Height to which branches are removed - Saw body not above shoulder height - Operating technique - Brashing close to the stem
4. Select a felling method which is relevant to the tree size and condition 5. Fell trees using appropriate felling aids in a safe and ergonomic way	i. Fell a tree with a basic felling technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choice of felling direction made - Escape route(s) prepared and selected - Tree Inspected for signs of rot or decay e.g. Fungal growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavities Die back - Explain methods of felling unsafe trees <p>A sink is cut to determine felling direction, using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe stance - Top sink cut at an appropriate angle and height - Bottom sink cut as near to ground level as practicable - Cuts of appropriate depth - Sink cuts meet accurately - Sink facing in the chosen direction of fall - Chain brake used appropriately <p>The main felling cut/s made using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe stance - "Ears" cut at appropriate depth and height to avoid tearing - Level cut(s) at appropriate height at or above level of sink - "Pushing chain" or "pulling" chain - Safe withdrawal of the saw - Chain brake as appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A hinge is retained of adequate dimensions - Appropriate aid tools are used safely if required to fell tree - A prepared escape route is used as soon as the tree begins to fall - Site checked for safety once tree has fallen
	ii. Fell a tree which is leaning forward and require an additional felling technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine felling method and safe working zones - Select and prepare escape route(s) - Prepare a sink of the correct dimensions - Felling cuts made and felling aid employed using a safe and effective felling method (e.g. a "step cut" technique using a felling lever) - A hinge is retained of adequate dimensions - Appropriate aid tools are used safely if required to fell tree - A prepared escape route is used as soon as the tree begins to fall - Site checked for safety once tree has fallen

6. Remove branches to the given specification in a safe and ergonomic way	i. Branches are removed from the tree in a safe manor	<p>Safe Working Practice will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct stance and support of the saw on tree or right leg - Left thumb around the front handle - Neither handle released while the chain is moving - Apply chain brake if reaching across bar - Apply chain brake when negotiating obstacles <p>Avoid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking when saw is on same side of tree as operator - Reaching too far round with saw on far side of tree - Cutting towards legs or body - Using tip of guide bar - Overreaching with chainsaw - Straddling the stem - Working on lower side of tree on side slopes
	ii. Choice of work method:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systematic Sequence of cuts and position of the saw to remove branches as appropriate for the branching habit - All branches removed flush with the stem.
	iii. Remove the top of the tree in accordance with site specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut top at appropriate diameter - Remove top with a safe method of cutting - Dispose of top according to Job Specification
7. How to take down hung up trees safely and in line with industry guidelines	i. Partially sever the hinge with the chainsaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct stance - Safe position to side of tree - Position and angle of cuts - Cutting technique for removal of appropriate part of the hinge - Safe withdrawal of the saw - Part(s) of hinge are left attached appropriate to take down method utilised - Safe placement of the saw on completion of cuts
	ii. Take down the tree using hand tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aid tool positioned and attached safely & effectively <p>Aid tool operated using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Straight back - Correct pushing technique - Correct lifting technique - Correct grip - Repositioning aid tool - Not working in danger areas - Releasing aid tool as tree falls - Use escape route(s). - If tree does not fall through roll out technique, remnant of hinge removed by safe method (if still attached) & tree is "walked" down with e.g. a wooden pole - Tree in a stable condition on the ground
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS		
Safety		
Environmental		
Other		