

Critical
Major
Minor

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	i.	
2. take appropriate action in the event of unforeseen circumstances	i.	<p>EMERGENCY PLANNING Emergency Planning information should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location name (Site location name, Street name/district) - Map reference - Designated meeting place (useful in remote areas to guide the emergency services to the worksite) - Nearest access point - Type of access (public road/light vehicles, four-wheel drive) - Suitable helicopter landing area - Location of nearest Accident and Emergency hospital and Phone number - Manager contact details (Radio call sign / Phone number / Mobile number) - Your own contact number / Mobile number
	ii.	<p>RISKASSESSMENT/METHOD STATEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The conditions of the site, including terrain, soil and weather must be considered. - Identify the correct trees to be felled by agreed method - A safe working distance of at least two tree lengths between workers must be maintained. - No unauthorised person within two tree lengths, or directly below on steep slopes. - Working in a 'pairing system' so that regular contact with partner is maintained. - No felling if wind conditions are such that control over the felling direction will be lost. - Ensure that all underground and overhead way-leaves have been accurately identified before felling commences. - Ensure a clearance zone of two tree lengths is established each side of an overhead power line. - Use of natural felling bench where available to aid ergonomic working. - Signs must be erected warning others of the work carried out. - Additional measures taken if public likely to enter the two tree length exclusion zone, e.g. banks-man (look-out) near paths etc.
3.		Visually observe during practical test
4. Maintain effective teamwork when working with others		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.
5.	i.	practical
	ii. Demonstrate knowledge of the dangers of using a pushing chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The saw can run back on the chain towards the operator pushing him/her off balance, contacting body with blade or causing kickback injury - The saw must be pushed in close to the tree and out of line of the body to prevent this happening, avoiding using pushing chain on heavier branches
6. select a felling method which is relevant to the tree size and condition	i.	practical
7. fell trees using appropriate felling aids in a safe and ergonomic way	iii. Fell a tree which is slightly weighted against the intended felling direction	practical
8. delimb trees to the given specification in a safe and ergonomic way	i.	practical
	ii.	practical
	iii.	practical

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA Critical Major Minor
What the chainsaw operator must know and understand:	
(a) how to identify hazards and comply with the control procedures of risk assessments wr pr/or Explain how to identify hazards and comply with the control procedures of risk assessments	<p>Risk Assessment should cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sites (information from walking the site and Site Specific Risk Assessment documentation) - Tasks (information from job specification / method statements, safety guides) - Machines (information from manufacturer's guidance / industry guidance notes) <p>Risk Assessment should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify significant hazards - Evaluate the risks and to whom - Indicate control measures required - Be written down - Be communicated to all other operators and reviewed / monitored
(b) Emergency planning and procedures Wr Pr/Or	<p>EMERGENCY PLANNING Emergency Planning information should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location name (Site location name, Street name/district) - Grid reference - Designated meeting place (useful in remote areas to guide the emergency services to the worksite) - Nearest access point - Type of access (public road/light vehicles, four-wheel drive) - Suitable helicopter landing area - Location of nearest Accident and Emergency hospital and Phone number - Manager's contact details (Radio call sign / Phone number / Mobile number) - Your own contact number / Mobile number <p>ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY PLANNING Current guidelines on safety clearances from overhead and underground services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As per national guidelines for Electricity at Work - Safety distances must be observed - Safety distances depend on task undertaken and voltage concerned - Identify hazardous overhead or underground services at the worksite <p>What to do in the event of contact with e.g. overhead / underground power lines, gas mains etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give electric company or emergency services contact details - Site evacuation procedures may be necessary ('Bunny-hop' away from power cables, do not walk) - Power may be restored to the line automatically - Do not go near or touch any person or tree that is touching or very near a power line - Warn others to keep away.
(c) the implications of terrain, ground conditions, season, weather and species wr pr/or Describe the implications of terrain, ground conditions, season, weather and timber type and condition	<p>Appropriate PPE / additional clothing may be required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify dry or fungus infested timber - Thorny / shattered timber that can cause injury - Tree saps that may be toxic material - Contamination of ground or timber by harmful material e.g. sewage / waste / rat urine - Weather becomes very cold or very wet <p>Additional precautions may be required if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather becomes to windy in the specific situation - Dry conditions create a Fire hazard - Working above, below or on slopes / steep ground - Working in very hot or dry conditions - Ground frozen or obscured by snow - Harmful insects are present - Working near waterway lakes / ponds / boggy ground - Branches / crown overhead is dead / brittle /storm damaged / squirrel damaged / snow laden
(d) the legal requirements for felling trees in different circumstances wr or Demonstrate knowledge of the legal constraints in relation to proposed tree felling. Demonstrate knowledge of the environmental considerations which may affect tree felling	<p>(EU and national standards)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Felling Licence may be required - Legally protected trees - Conservation areas - Legal protection for species and habitats <p>Environmental protection guidelines recommended for sites eg: Water Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protection of wildlife - Legally protected sites, Nature reserves etc - Archaeological and historic features - Amenity or Landscape considerations

<p>(e) causes of, and how to prevent, potential pollution and environmental damage</p> <p>wr pr/or</p> <p>Describe the causes of, and how to prevent potential pollution and environmental damage</p>	<p>Spillage of environmentally hazardous liquids eg: petrol, diesel, urea can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cause harm to the environment (particularly aquatic plants and animals) - Contaminate drinking water supplies. - Cause hazards to human health <p>Plan and set up and use fuelling and maintenance points in secure areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All debris resulting from cleaning operations is correctly disposed of - pollution control equipment should be available on site (e.g. spill kit) - Vegetable chain oils are not toxic to the operator or plants and pose less of a hazard to the environment <p>An appropriate fuelling site would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A safe distance from buildings - In a shaded area away from work and equipment - A safe distance from any source of ignition - Away from a main fuel store - A position selected to minimise damage to the environment <p>Emergency procedures should be put in place and followed if there is a spill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimise any pollution incident - Any major incidents should be reported to the relevant environmental agency or Emergency Services
<p>(f) how and why to initiate and maintain effective communication</p> <p>wr pr/or</p> <p>Explain why it is important to initiate and maintain effective communication with others</p>	<p>When working as a member of a team (according to national standards):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - obey safety distance guidelines - wear high-visibility clothing - warn and prevent access to others who may approach working area - All operators be (abel) to raise the alarm in the event of an accident <p>Other precautions on a work site would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant authorities informed about work - Warning signs erected - Exclusion zones / barriers set up if appropriate - Suitable additional controls to protect users of roads, paths and tracks (e.g. stop/go boards) - 'Banks-man' / lookout posted if appropriate
<p>(g) your own role in work systems and procedures</p> <p>wr pr/or</p> <p>Summarise your own role in company working practices and industry good practice</p> <p>- The principles of safe/ergonomic manual handling techniques whilst crosscutting under guidebar length in diameter</p> <p>- How to apply ergonomic working methods and the implications of manual handling regulations</p> <p>- How to move or roll timber by hand and with mechanical assistance</p> <p>Wr Pr OBSERVED DURING PRACTICAL TEST</p>	<p>PPE should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified and worn appropriately in accordance with current best practice guidance - Other PPE worn as highlighted by a Risk Assessment - Marked with an EN number - Within any date limits and undamaged - Maintained / cleaned / stored / transported correctly <p>NOISE Possible hazards include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise hazard to operators <p>Possible control methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid operation in enclosed spaces - All operators wear suitable ear protection - Rotate work with other workers or other operations - Avoid working in close proximity to machinery - Have an adequate exclusion zone for bystanders <p>VIBRATION Vibration is transmitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Into your hands and arms from hand-held powered tools (e.g. chainsaw!) <p>Regular exposure to vibration can cause Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vibration white finger - Carpal tunnel syndrome <p>HAVS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affects the nerves, blood vessels, muscles and joints of the hand, wrist and arm. - May involve pain, tingling, numbness and weakness in parts of the hand - It can become severely disabling if ignored. <p>The effect is reduced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Checking tools before use that properly maintained and repaired - Make sure cutting chain is kept sharp so that the saw works efficiently. - Reduce the amount of time you use a saw in one go, by doing other jobs in between <p>MANUAL HANDLING Reduce the risk of muscular/ skeletal injury when manually handling machinery, equipment, timber or arisings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use aid tools such as timber tongs - Use safe lifting techniques (bend knees and keep back straight, etc.) - Pivot loads rather than carry them - Move the lightest pieces to the heavy pieces - Drag, roll, move end over end - Maintain correct stance when using tools (e.g. chainsaw) - Do not handle items that are too heavy or awkward - Prepare material to reduce length and/or weight if possible <p>FIRST AID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ideally a person qualified in First Aid at Work should be present as per national guidelines - A regulation First Aid Kit must be immediately available to a work team - A vehicle should always be available on site - A pairing ('buddy') system should be used - A First Aid Kit should be carried on the site (according to national standard)

<p>(h) how to recognise signs of disease and decay in trees and the effects of these on safety</p> <p>wr pr/or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fungal fruiting bodies - Loose bark - Dying or no foliage - Old, damaged bark - Rotting - Ground cracks - Insect damage <p>Effects on safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weakens timber
<p>(i) how to take down hung up trees safely and in line with industry guidelines</p> <p>wr pr/or</p> <p>Partially sever the hinge with the chainsaw</p> <p>Take down the tree using hand tools</p>	<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 <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
<p>(j) delimiting</p> <p>wr pr/or</p> <p>Explain techniques of delimiting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - systematic structure - repetitive sequence of cuts - ergonomic movements - careful assessment of individual branches - tension & compression - primary and secondary cuts - danger of splitting and cracking