



NPTC

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
FOREST MACHINE OPERATIONS

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

FMO4 SKIDDING

FMO4.1	Line
FMO4.2	Clambunk
FMO4.3	Grapple

NPTC

LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE IN FOREST MACHINE OPERATIONS

FMO4 SKIDDING

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

At the Assessment the Assessor will evaluate each activity against the following criteria:

- 4 = Exceeds the requirements of the assessment criteria for both the practical performance and the underpinning knowledge, with no 'critical' faults. Delivering a safe, polished, efficient, unsupervised performance of the practical skill.
- 3 = Satisfies the requirements of the assessment criteria for both the practical performance and the underpinning knowledge, with no 'critical' faults. Candidate has sufficient fluency to perform the task safely, unaided and unsupervised.
- 2 = Does not fully satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria. Candidate required some support or excessive time to perform the task satisfactorily and/or potentially causes a "critical fault". Weaknesses in performance exceed strengths.
- 1 = Does not satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria. Candidate is unable to demonstrate sufficient skill or underpinning knowledge and weaknesses in performance substantially exceed strengths and/or causes a "critical fault".

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.

FMO4 SKIDDING

FMO4.1	Line
FMO4.2	Clambunk
FMO4.3	Grapple

NOTE: Candidates assessed using a Clambunk Skidder are assessed in FMO3 plus Parts I and III of FMO4

Candidates are required to complete Part I and Part II or III

Learning outcomes

Candidates will:

1. Carry out pre-start checks and routine maintenance
2. Carry out a Risk Assessment and site appraisal
3. Operate a skidder in a safe and effective manner
4. Drive the machine on a variety of terrains as available on site
5. Demonstrate knowledge of traction aids (chains and band tracks)

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 forest machines used in the assessments must comply with relevant Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG) Safety Guides 501 and 502
4. Candidates should be familiar with the machine that they are going to operate.
5. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times.
6. A First Aid kit meeting current regulations, of the appropriate size for the number of persons on site, must be available.
7. The candidate must be equipped with a personal first aid kit.
8. 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.
9. Any necessary permissions must have been granted, and notifications made as appropriate: (e.g. Forestry Commission, Forest Enterprise, Private owners etc).
10. All equipment being used for this assessment must comply with relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998 and Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998.
11. Information may be sought from the relevant operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.
12. The current Regulations for transport, handling and storage of fuel and oils must be complied with.
13. Provision must be made to avoid the risk of environmental pollution.
14. 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.
15. Whenever the Candidate leaves the operators cab, the processor must be safely parked and the parking brake must be applied.
16. When the machine is parked and left unattended, it must be immobilised and all doors secured.
17. The machine must be operated in such a way that the Candidate, Assessor, other persons or equipment are not endangered.
18. All ancillary equipment, when detached must be safely parked.
19. Candidates must comply with current regulations when working at heights of greater than 2 metres.
20. The assessment is carried out in accordance with the safety guidelines laid down in Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG) Safety Guides, Health and Safety publications and current legal requirements.

Additional information:

Sweep diagram for the loader being used

Relevant FASTCo Guides 501 and 502

Forestry Commission publications on Terrain Classification

Part I - Skidding		Site: Woodland area with suitable slopes and with timber ready for extraction
Assessment Activity		Assessment Criteria:
1.	OPERATION Demonstrate knowledge of legal requirements and safety regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness of any safety implications imposed by Risk Assessment on the machine and the operation - Awareness of statutory guarding requirements - Lifting operation and lifting equipment regulations (LOLER) - Provision and use of work equipment regulations (PUWER)
2.	Demonstrate knowledge of requirements to safeguard the environment	Awareness of statutory requirements under control of pollution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fuel spillage/storage - Erosion - Oil/leakages - Time of year - Water contamination
3.	Check fitting, condition and operation of extraction equipment as fitted to vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Correct and secure fitting to base machine - Hydraulic hoses sound (no leaks) - All working parts free to move - Cable sound
4.	Demonstrate procedure for woodland driving (Line and Grapple Skidders only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety belt fastened (if fitted) - Stacking blade fully raised - Choice of gear/engine speed - Use of differential lock - Negotiation of stacks - Negotiation of uphill slopes - Negotiation of downhill slopes - Negotiation of side slopes - Use of independent brakes - Overhead hazards
5.	Prepare load and extract timber using machines in either Part II or Part III	

Part II - Winch (Line Skidder)

Assessment Activity		Assessment Criteria:
6.	Use cable drum winch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check serviceability of winch and associated equipment - Position tractor - Take out winch cable and attach to log - Method of attachment - Tension cable - Winch in load - Correct use of remote controls where applicable - Safety

Assessment Activity		Assessment Criteria:
7.	Use multiple chokers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge of types and systems of chokers - Check serviceability of chokers associate equipment - Lay out of chokers - Correct attachment - Attachment of chokers (furthest pole first) - Take out main line and terminal pin to furthest pole - Chokers attached to main line (correctly) - Tension of winch rope maintained - Winch in load
Either 8.1 and 8.2		
8.1	Choker butt end first	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choker attached 220mm -300mm (8"-12") from butt end when ground skidding - Appropriate distance from butt when skylining - If hooked choker is used, the opening should face away from the direction of pull - Surplus slack in chokers adjusted using approved method to maintain ground clearance when load is held against tractor butt plate - Concise instructions to winch operator - Safe procedures for un-chokering
8.2	Demonstrate knowledge of chokering tip first Report on condition of polypropylene chokers for use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of leaving sprags on the end of poles - Relationship between average pole diameter and choker length - Attach chokers and fit sliders and terminal pins where applicable - Appropriate sequence - Concise instructions to winch operator - Correct procedure for unchokering at landing
OR		
8.3	Choker tip first Report on condition of polypropylene chokers for use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of leaving sprags on the end of poles - Relationship between average pole diameter and choker length - Attach chokers and fit sliders and terminal pins where applicable - Appropriate sequence
8.4	Demonstrate knowledge of chokering butt end first	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choker attached 220mm -300mm (8"-12") from butt end when ground skidding - Appropriate distance from butt when skidding - If hooked choker is used, the opening should face away from the direction of pull - Surplus slack in chokers adjusted using approved method to maintain ground clearance when load is held against tractor butt plate - Concise instructions to winch operator - Safe procedures for un-chokering
9.	Choker short wood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation - Personal safety - Risk zone(s)

Assessment Activity		Assessment Criteria:
10.	Demonstrate knowledge of use of winch cable to retrieve timber from behind obstacle e.g. standing tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of equipment within safety limits - Use of appropriate pulley - Personal safety - PPE
11.	Transport load to conversion/stacking site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Load position - Avoidance of obstacles and damage to standing crop - Engine speed - Gear selection - Stability of vehicle
12.	Detach load, park prime mover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of extracted material for subsequent operations - Parking brake applied, wheels chocked when necessary - Stacking blade lowered (if fitted) - Switch off engine - Full safe stop procedure, hand brake on, gears in neutral, key removed and placed in pocket - Dismount safely
13.	Demonstrate knowledge of procedure for debogging vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of equipment - Choice of anchor for debogging - Direction of winch rope through pulley - Correct gear engaged - Use of hand throttle - Correct winching/driving techniques - Vehicle stability - Equipment re-stowed on vehicle after use
14.	Demonstrate knowledge of procedures for crossing a deep drain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Angle of approach to drain - Load dropped before crossing attempted - Crossing technique (never more than one wheel at a time over drain) - Use of differential lock (released when crossing complete) - Engine speed - Gear selection - Load hauled in when drain crossed - Vehicle stability - Environmental considerations

Part III - OTHER METHODS GRAPPLE OR CLAMBUNK SKIDDER

NOTE: Candidates undertaking assessment with a Clambunk Skidder must have been assessed in FM 03 - Forwarding/Handling

<i>Attaching load, extraction, un-attaching and stacking must be assessed covering loading to the capacity of the machine; relating load size to site conditions, segregation and stacking of more than one product type.</i>	
Assessment Activity	Assessment Criteria:
15. Use prime mover and attachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check serviceability of the prime mover and associated equipment - Position of prime mover - Overhead hazards
16. Gather loads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assemble load to optimum capacity of equipment - Economy of movement - Ability to extract timber butt or top first (grapple) - Ability to extract timber butt first (clambunk skidder)
17. Transport load to conversion/stacking site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoidance of obstacles and damage to standing crop - Engine speed - Gear selection - Stability of vehicle
18. Detach load, park prime mover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of extracted material for subsequent operations - Parking brake applied, wheels chocked when necessary - Tongs lowered and opened - Stacking blade lowered (if fitted) - Switch off engine - Full safe stop procedure, hand brake on, gears in neutral, key removed and placed in pocket - Dismount safely