

**City & Guilds Level 2 CPD
Module in Using a Chainsaw
from a Rope and Harness
(0041-04)**

Version 1.0 August 2025

Assessment Pack – Centres/Candidates

Version and date	Change detail	Section
1.0 August 2025	Initial version	All

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1 Introduction

This assessment is for **Unit 004 Using a chainsaw from a rope and harness** in the Qualification Handbook, covering the following learning outcomes:

LO1 Use a chainsaw from a rope and harness

The assessment can be achieved at pass only.

Skills Evaluation

The assessor will complete a skills evaluation for each candidate. Each activity in the skills evaluation will be scored 1-5 based on the score descriptors in section 2. The list of activities in the skills evaluation is provided in section 3. The assessment criteria for each activity are shown in section 4.

Record of assessment (ROA)

Centres must pre-populate the first section of the ROA and provide this to the assessor. The assessor will record skills evaluation scores, results and feedback (assessor and candidate) using the ROA and submit it to the centre following the assessment.

Pre-requisites

Learners must have achieved the pre-requisite Certificates of Competence (CoCs) listed below before they can be registered for this qualification.

City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate of Competence in Using a Chainsaw from a Rope and Harness (0039-23) * **

*Equivalent, regulated Certificates of Competence (CoCs) from other awarding organisations are acceptable.

**Equivalent legacy City and Guilds Certificates of Competence (CoCs) are acceptable.

Assessment Conditions

The following must be applied to the assessment of this qualification:

- Assessment methodology: **Non-Independent Assessment**
- Assessment duration: **1 - 2 hours**
- Expected maximum number of candidates per day: **4**
- Maximum recommended number of candidates to assessor is **1:1**
- The qualification handbook and assessment pack must **not** be available to candidates during the assessment
- Additional technical information can be sought from the relevant manufacturer's operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Site/workshop requirements:

- Trees with branches of 100mm diameter

Equipment/Machinery:

- LOLER compliant climbing equipment with documented evidence, for the candidate and the assessor
- Top handled or rear handled chainsaw (maximum guide bar length 15 inch)
- Maintenance tools
- Pulling line and/or tape sling
- First aid kit

Consumables:

- Fuel and chainsaw oil

Supporting information

All equipment and machinery used in the delivery of the unit must comply with manufacturer's guidelines and the relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER), 1998, and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998. All persons must comply with current regulations when working at heights: Work at Height Regulations 2005 (as amended).

Learners should be familiar with all equipment and machinery that they are going to operate. Equipment and machines must be used/operated in such a way that the learner, assessor, other persons or equipment/machinery are not endangered.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times.

A First Aid kit meeting current regulations, of the appropriate size for the number of persons on site, must be available. It is strongly recommended that candidates hold at least a recent, recognised 'Emergency First Aid' Training Certificate. Assessors must hold a current 'First Aid at Work' Certificate.

Assessors must ensure a risk assessment is carried out, and sufficient control measures are implemented.

A breach of Health and Safety that puts any person at risk during the assessment process will result in the assessment being terminated and the Candidate not meeting the required standard.

Provision must be made to comply with environmental and sustainability regulations and standards; segregation of resources for reuse, recycling and disposal should be implemented.

If these conditions are not observed this will result in the learner not completing the skills evaluation.

2 Skills evaluation score descriptors

The descriptors in the table below will be used to assign a score for each activity in the skills evaluation.

Score	Descriptor
1	A poor level of skill/knowledge, potentially requiring intervention or termination of the assessment on the grounds of safety. It would be recommended that the candidate carries out no further work in the topic until further training has been completed.
2	A less than sufficient level of technical skills/knowledge demonstrated. It would be recommended that further training and consolidation in the topic should be sought.
3	Sufficient level of technical skills/knowledge. Candidate worked at the minimum standard for the topic, complying with industry good practice. Candidate should continue as demonstrated and consolidate their skills/knowledge.
4	A good level of technical skills/knowledge. Candidate worked above the minimum standard for the topic, complying with industry good practice while working efficiently. Candidate should continue as demonstrated and consolidate their skills/knowledge.
5	Excellent technical skills/knowledge. Candidate consistently worked above the minimum standard for the topic, complying with industry good practice while working highly efficiently. Candidate should continue as demonstrated.

To achieve an overall Pass result, candidates must score a minimum of 3 for **each** activity in the skills evaluation. A score of 2 or below for **any** activity will automatically result in a Fail overall.

3 Skills evaluation

Activity number and description	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 Carry out a risk assessment specific to the site the task and the machine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2 Set-up site in accordance with the risk assessment and AA guide TG1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3 Select and wear appropriate compliant personal protective equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4 State industry guides relevant to using a chainsaw from a rope and harness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5 Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree prior to commencing the work	<input type="checkbox"/>				
6 Discuss a working at height assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
7 Inspect all access/tree climbing equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
8 Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree/ job specification	<input type="checkbox"/>				
9 Use appropriate positioning techniques within the crown	<input type="checkbox"/>				
10 Identify desired drop zone	<input type="checkbox"/>				
11 Apply a range of cutting techniques appropriate to the tree	<input type="checkbox"/>				
12 Use associated equipment to aid removal of sections into desired drop zone to protect infrastructure and targets	<input type="checkbox"/>				
13 Dispose of waste/ arisings in line with work specification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
14 Communicate appropriately with ground staff	<input type="checkbox"/>				
15 Used appropriate tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
16 Carried out work to minimise environmental damage	<input type="checkbox"/>				
17 Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Result:					
To achieve an overall Pass result, candidates must score a minimum of 3 for each activity in the skills evaluation. A score of 2 or below for any activity will automatically result in a Fail.					

4 Skills evaluation descriptor table

Activity number and description from skills evaluation	Assessment criteria
1 Carry out a risk assessment specific to the site the task and the machine (Topic 1.1)	Identify hazards, risks and controls relevant to the site task and machine
2 Set-up site in accordance with the risk assessment and AA guide TG1 (Topic 1.2)	<p>Set up site in accordance with the site-specific risk assessment and AA guide TG1.</p> <p>Worksite layout factors to consider may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work zone: an area where hazards may be encountered • drop zone: an area where it is anticipated materials may fall • exclusion zone: the overall operational area • other.
3 Select and wear appropriate compliant personal protective equipment (Topic 1.3)	<p>Appropriate and compliant Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for chainsaw operations will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all PPE should conform to CE/EN standards • tree climbing helmet • personal first aid kit • knife with retractable blade or handsaw • chainsaw safety footwear with good grip and ankle support • non-snag clothing • eye protection • hearing protection • chainsaw protective clothing • appropriate chainsaw with lanyard.
4 State industry guides relevant to using a chainsaw from a rope and harness (Topic 1.4)	<p>Industry guides relevant to using a chainsaw from a rope and harness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA Technical guide 1 Tree climbing and aerial rescue • AA Technical guide 2 Use of tools in a tree • Recommendations for tree work BS3998
5 Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree prior to commencing the work (Topic 1.5)	<p>Potential hazards that may be encountered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evidence of cavities, decay or decay fungi • deadwood and broken branches • dead or flaking bark • v shaped unions • cracks • nesting insects • the presence of power lines or telephone wires • targets and obstacles underneath the tree

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
6	Discuss a working at height assessment (Topic 1.6)	<p>Working at height assessment considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can the work be carried out from ground level • the use of a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) to prevent a fall • The use of suitable equipment to minimise the distance and consequence of a fall
7	Inspect all access/tree climbing equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation (Topic 1.7)	Candidate to present evidence of LOLER compliance, inspect equipment and comment on condition.
8	Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree/ job specification (Topic 1.8)	<p>All anchor points selected taking into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • size, strength and structure • position in relation to the parts of the tree to be accessed • use of equipment to minimise damage to the tree if appropriate <p>Candidate establishes their initial anchor points taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suitability of the techniques used • accurate installation of equipment • organisation of ropes • safety and position of the anchor points • testing of the anchor points by thorough loading prior to ascent <p>Technique used takes into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • efficient use of technique chosen • candidate is attached to the tree at all times in accordance with industry good practice • appropriate selection of anchor points • appropriate route taken up the tree • correct use of systems when changing anchor points • thorough load testing of new anchor points • risk of a fall is managed at all times • correct use of equipment

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
9	Use appropriate positioning techniques within the crown (Topic 1.9)	<p>Candidate to access two points within the crown taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate route • slack within systems is no more than 500mm • ropes should be kept in as straight a line as possible to the anchor points • balance and control maintained • efficient rope organisation • controlled movement back into the stem <p>Climber achieves position to receive the chainsaw. Work position for cutting attained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chain brake applied or saw switched off whilst position attained • appropriate working position attained with the climber in a balanced and stable position to use the saw • the use of load bearing supplementary anchor points as appropriate.
10	Identify desired drop zone (Topic 1.10)	Clear drop zone to be used during the removal of timber using free-fall techniques

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
11	Apply a range of cutting techniques appropriate to the tree (Topic 1.11)	<p>Cutting techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sink cut: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Directional sink with back cut retaining hinge which aids direction used on free fall and hand-held sections. • Step cut: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Two over lapping cuts used on free fall and hand-held sections. • Inboard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Finishing cut towards main stem, reducing risk of saw being taken. • Out board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Finishing cut away from main stem, timber falls flat and reduces the risk of tearing. • V cut: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Two joining directional sinks with back cut, used on smaller diameter stems under tension. • Holding cut: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Sink cut with retained hinge and hold at the rear, used on larger diameter stems under tension. <p>Step cut and sink cut sections should be removed, both free fall and hand held, taking The following points into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • characteristics and properties of the wood allowed for • manageable sections selected • saw released from strop if applicable and attached to a supplementary anchor point • climber holding the saw using both the front and top/rear handles of the saw • side or reducing cuts used where appropriate • appropriate hinge left on sink cut sections • position of cuts on step cut sections and a complete overlap of cuts achieved • chain brake applied or saw switched off whilst breaking and casting sections • climber maintains awareness of activity below • hand held sections are cast into a predetermined area • the branch collar and/or branch bark ridge is identified when pruning • the pruning cut is left as smooth as possible
12	Use associated equipment to aid removal of sections into desired drop zone to protect infrastructure and targets (Topic 1.12)	Candidate to use associated equipment such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tape sling • pull/tag line • other
13	Dispose of waste/ arisings in line with work specification (Topic 1.13)	All waste produced from activities is disposed of in line with legislation, good practice and/or site requirements.

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
14	Communicate appropriately with ground staff (Topic 1.14)	Communication between climber and ground staff maintained when appropriate
15	Used appropriate tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) (Topic 1.15)	All tools, equipment and personal protective equipment is used in line with industry good practice.
16	Carried out work to minimise environmental damage (Topic 1.16)	Any possible environmental damage is minimised at all times.
17	Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice (Topic 1.17)	All activities must be completed in a way which protects the operator and those around them, consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice.

Appendix 1

Sources of general information

The following documents contain essential information for centres delivering City & Guilds qualifications. They should be referred to in conjunction with this handbook. To download the documents and to find other useful documents, go to www.cityandguilds.com or click on the links below:

Centre handbook: quality assurance standards

This document is for all approved centres and provides guidance to support their delivery of our qualifications. It includes information on:

- centre quality assurance criteria and monitoring activities
- administration and assessment systems
- centre-facing support teams at City & Guilds/ILM
- centre quality assurance roles and responsibilities.

The centre handbook should be used to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the centre contract.

Centre assessment: quality assurance standards

This document sets out the minimum common quality assurance requirements for our regulated and non-regulated qualifications that feature centre-assessed components. Specific guidance will also be included in relevant qualification handbooks and/or assessment documentation.

It incorporates our expectations for centre internal quality assurance and the external quality assurance methods we use to ensure that assessment standards are met and upheld. It also details the range of sanctions that may be put in place when centres do not comply with our requirements or actions that will be taken to align centre marking/assessment to required standards. Additionally, it provides detailed guidance on the secure and valid administration of centre assessments.

Access arrangements: when and how applications need to be made to City & Guilds

This provides full details of the arrangements that may be made to facilitate access to assessments and qualifications for candidates who are eligible for adjustments in assessment.

The **centre document library** also contains useful information on such things as:

- conducting examinations
- registering learners
- appeals and malpractice.

Useful contacts

Please visit the **contact us** section of the City & Guilds website

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We work with Governments, employers, training providers, colleges and industry stakeholders to design and deliver high-quality training, qualifications, assessments and credentials that lead to meaningful career progression. We understand the life changing link between skills development, social mobility and success. Our solutions span critical sectors including construction, engineering, transport, energy and electrical, serving over 1 million learners annually.

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