



City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate of Competence in Use of Chainsaw from a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) (0039-38)

December 2025 Version 1.4

Assessment Pack – Candidate Version

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Version and date	Change detail	Section
1.0 October 2021	First version	
1.1 August 2022	City & Guilds/NPTC logo updated Formatting changes, typos amended Sources of information updated	Front cover Throughout Appendix 2
1.2 February 2025	Formatting	Throughout
1.3 September 2025	ROA paragraph updated, reference to ARAS form removed.	Introduction
1.4 December 2025	Assessment timing updated	Introduction

Introduction

This assessment relates to the unit in the Qualification handbook. The assessment can be achieved at pass only. If any task is not yet met the candidate is unsuccessful.

This assessment is for unit 309 Use of a chainsaw from a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) covering the following learning outcome:

1. Carry out operations using a chainsaw from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)

General guidance on the requirements for assessment can be found in the Assessor Guidance document available on the City & Guilds web site www.nptc.org.uk .

The assessor must complete the Practical Table mark sheet for each candidate which should be kept by the assessor for a minimum period of twelve months.

Record of assessment (ROA)

A prepopulated record of assessment must be completed by the assessor following an assessment and returned to the centre within two working days.

Assessment Time

The practical observation and oral questioning should take between **1 – 2 hours**.

Site/workshop requirements:

Trees of sufficient size and form to enable all assessment criteria to be assessed
Branch diameter 100mm available

Equipment/Machinery:

LOLER compliant Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)
LOLER compliant fall protection system with documented evidence
Top handled or rear handled Chainsaw (maximum guide bar 15 inch) with maintenance tools
Handsaw
First aid kit

Consumables:

Fuel and chainsaw oil

This is not an open book assessment, however additional technical information may be sought from the relevant manufactures operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Practical observation descriptor table

309 - Use of chainsaw from a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP)

Activity number and description from checklist		Assessment criteria
1	Identify the hazards, risks and controls associated with the site, task and machine	Identify hazards, risks and controls relevant to the site task and machine
2	State the emergency procedures relevant to the site	Emergency procedures relevant to the work site
3	State industry guides relevant to using a chainsaw from a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP)	Industry guides relevant to aerial tree pruning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AA technical guide 5 Use of Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWP) in tree work • Tree work recommendations BS3998.
4	Explain the meaning of the warning decals on the MEWP	Explain the meaning of the warning decals on the MEWP
5	Explain the function of all the instruments and controls of the machine	Explain the function of all the instruments and controls of the machine
6	Carry out pre-use and running checks for the MEWP in accordance with the operator's manual	Carry out pre-use and running checks in accordance with the operator's manual.
7	Site set up in accordance with site requirements and risk assessment	Site set up may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • warning signs • traffic bollards • warning tape • barriers • other.
8	Set up the MEWP as per manufacturers information and job specification	Set up of the MEWP should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as per manufacturers/ operator's manual • appropriate PPE worn • set up position appropriate for intended operation • examination of ground conditions • deployment of stabilisers, outriggers and jacks • use of extending axles where applicable • secure set up position • other.

9	Describe two ways of dealing with an injured operator who is unable to bring themselves down	<p>Ways of dealing with an injured operator who is unable to bring themselves down may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stop all work • rescue operator with second MEWP if available • initiate manual override (ground controls) as per manufactures instructions • other.
10	Explain how to carry out a MEWP rescue	<p>Rescue from a MEWP may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trained and competent MEWP operator places work platform close to casualty/operator • MEWP operator connects casualty/operator to suitable attachment point in the rescue MEWP • MEWP operator assists casualty/operator into the basket • MEWP operator disconnects casualty/operator from their original system • descent made.
11	Explain the implication on a MEWP's safe working load limit during aerial rescue	<p>The implications on the MEWP's safe working limit may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exceeding the rated load of the work platform • structural collapse • non – function • overturn of the MEWP • other.
12	Explain how the species, condition of trees and time of year affect the work	<p>Species, condition of tree and time of year may affect the work owing to:</p> <p>Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brittle timber – loss of control • responses to pruning • other. <p>Condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dead – loss of control, safety compromised • diseased – biosecurity measures • other. <p>Time of year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some species bleed heavily if pruned at certain times of year • promotion of subsequent disease or infection • other.

<p>13</p>	<p>Explain different cuts and when they may be used</p>	<p>Cuts that maybe used and their application:</p> <p>Sink cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> directional sink with back cut retaining hinge which aide's direction used on free fall and handheld sections. <p>Step cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two over lapping cuts used on free fall and handheld sections. <p>Inboard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> finishing cut towards main stem, reducing risk of saw being taken. <p>Out board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> finishing cut away from main stem, timber falls flat and reduces the risk of tearing. <p>Vertical:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on upright or semi-upright timber. Can be one of the above cuts. <p>Horizontal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on lateral stems. Can be one of the above cuts. <p>V cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two joining directional sinks with back cut, used on smaller diameter stems under tension. <p>Holding cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sink cut with retained hinge and hold at the rear, used on larger diameter stems under tension.
<p>14</p>	<p>State the procedure for removing a trapped saw</p>	<p>The procedure for removing a trapped chainsaw may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> first switch off engine and/or apply chain brake release the chainsaw from the operator's harness or MEWP where the risk exists of the saw being taken with the cut section attach the saw securely to the tree inboard of the cut or to a separate lowering or tool line lever/lift the timber to open the cut use of a handsaw to release the trapped saw use of another chainsaw to release the trapped saw cutting the timber at least 300mm (12") from the trapped saw.

15	Carry out pre-start checks and setting of the chainsaw for use	<p>Pre start checks and setting of the machine to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chain tension and condition checked for safe and effective use • safety features checked for condition and function • external nuts and bolts checked for security • chainsaw contains sufficient fuel and chain oil for operations • battery chainsaw contains sufficient oil and charge
16	Demonstrate safe starting of the chainsaw	Chainsaw is checked started and function tested ready for use in accordance with manufactures information
17	Operate the MEWP safely	<p>Safe operation of the MEWP should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all round observation • correct use of controls • control of basket • boom correctly slewed • MEWP bucket elevated to suitable work position to carry out task • effective communication • other.
18	Demonstrate cuts on lateral branches	<p>Step cut and sink cut sections should be removed, both free fall and handheld, 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 • operator 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 • operator maintains awareness of activity below • handheld sections are cast into a predetermined area

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the branch collar and/or branch bark ridge is identified when pruning.
19	Demonstrate cuts on vertical or near vertical branches	<p>Timber sections should be removed taking the following points into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> appropriate working position attained characteristics and properties of the wood allowed for manageable sections selected operator 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 operator maintains awareness of activity below handheld sections are cast into a predetermined area giving an audible warning pull/tag line used is in good condition and suitable for the application clear instructions provided to ground staff when using a pull/tag line pull/tag line attached to the limb/trunk section securely no operators are located within the drop zone whilst using the system the branch collar and/or branch bark ridge is identified when pruning the pruning cut is left as smooth as possible other.
20	Demonstrate how to lower the MEWP in a controlled manner	<p>Lowering of the MEWP should take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> platform slewed and lowered in correct sequence platform lowered slowly and carefully platform stowed and where applicable locked in travel position other.

21	Demonstrate how to convert the MEWP to transport position in accordance with the operator's manual	Convert the MEWP to transport position in accordance with the operator's manual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reference to operator's manual • appropriate PPE used • debris removed • stabilisers retracted and secure • warning lights off • platform checked for roadworthiness as appropriate.
22	Explain the reasons for inspecting the MEWP after use	The reasons for inspecting the MEWP after use maybe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove any operational debris from MEWP • identify damage that may have been caused through use • ensure vehicle is still roadworthy • other.
23	Dispose of waste safely in line with legislation	All waste produced is disposed of in line with legislation, good practice and site requirements
24	Used appropriate tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	All tools, equipment and personal protective equipment is used in line with industry good practice
25	Carried out work to minimise environmental damage	It is ensured that any possible environmental damage is minimised at all times
26	Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice	All activities must be completed in a way which protects the operator and those around them

Appendix 1 Practical Table

309 - Using a chainsaw from a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)

All criteria must be achieved.

Activity number and description	Achieved
1. Identify the hazards, risks and controls associated with the site, task and machine	
2. State the emergency procedures relevant to the site	
3. State industry guides relevant to using a chainsaw from a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP)	
4. Explain the meaning of the warning decals on the MEWP	
5. Explain the function of all the instruments and controls of the machine	
6. Carry out pre-use and running checks for the MEWP in accordance with the operator's manual	
7. Site set up in accordance with site requirements and risk assessment	
8. Set up the MEWP as per manufacturers information and job specification	
9. Describe two ways of dealing with an injured operator who is unable to bring themselves down	
10. Explain how to carry out a MEWP rescue	
11. Explain the implication on a MEWP's safe working load limit during aerial rescue	
12. Explain how the species, condition of trees and time of year affect the work	
13. Explain different cuts and when they may be used	
14. State the procedure for removing a trapped saw	
15. Carry out pre-start checks and setting of the chainsaw for use	
16. Demonstrate safe starting of the chainsaw	
17. Operate the MEWP safely	
18. Demonstrate cuts on lateral branches	
19. Demonstrate cuts on vertical or near vertical branches	
20. Demonstrate how to lower the MEWP in a controlled manner	
21. Demonstrate how to convert the MEWP to transport position in accordance with the operator's manual	
22. Explain the reasons for inspecting the MEWP after use	
23. Dispose of waste safely in line with legislation	
24. Used appropriate tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	
25. Carried out work to minimise environmental damage	
26. Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice	

Appendix 2 Sources of general information

The following documents contain essential information for centres delivering City & Guilds qualifications. 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

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, **Contact us**.

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City & Guilds is the global skills partner, empowering people, organisations and economies to develop the skills they need for growth. With almost 150 years of trusted expertise, we support people into work, help them develop on the job and move into the next job.

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.

Through our comprehensive portfolio of brands and trusted global network, we set industry-wide standards for technical, behavioural and commercial skills to improve performance and productivity. We believe you can achieve your potential - and we're here to help make it happen.

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