CITY & GUILDS NPTC LEVEL 2 AWARD IN BRANCH REMOVAL AND CROWN BREAKDOWN USING A CHAINSAW (QCF)



QAN 600/6303/8

VERSION 3

QUALIFICATION GUIDANCE

Independently Assessed

Essential Qualification Information

Not to be used by the Candidate during Assessment

You will require some of this information to accurately complete the Record of Assessment (ROA)

Qualification Group No	0 0 2 0	Forestry & Arboriculture Level 2
Qualification Programme No	0 0 2 0 - 0 5	Award In Branch Removal and Crown Breakdown using a Chainsaw
Unit(s)	2 0 4	Remove branches and breakdown of crowns using a chainsaw
Learning Time (LT)	2 0 4	LT 15 (2 Credits) (* see note on page 2)
Recommended Assessment Duration		2.0 – 3.0 hours per Candidate
Pre-Requisite Units	2 0 1	Carry out maintenance of chainsaw and cutting system Cross-cut timber using a chainsaw

City and Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in Branch Removal and Crown Breakdown using a Chainsaw (QCF)

Qualification guidance

Introduction

The scheme will be administered by City & Guilds

City & Guilds will:

Publish - Scheme regulations - Qualification guidance - Training material - Trainers support 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 Qualification

The qualification will be awarded to candidates who achieve the required level of competence in the units to which their certificate relates.

What is the Qualifications and Credits Framework?

OFQUAL have introduced the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) to increase flexibility for learners and employers. Qualifications may be built up from individual units according to rules of combination. The units are derived from the National Occupational Standards, which are compiled by Lantra SSC, the Sector Skills Council for the Land-based industries.

* Learning Time (LT)

Learning Time (LT) is a better indicator of the time requirement needed for a candidate to achieve competence in this qualification. It has replaced Guided Learning Hours (GLH) which are defined as *"tutor or teacher led hours"*. LT is defined as *"a notional measure of the learning time a typical learner might be expected to take to complete and achieve all learning outcomes"*. It takes into account prior learning and encompasses: formal learning (including classes, tutorials, on line tuition), coaching and mentoring, practical work, relevant IT activity, information retrieval, expected private study and revision, work-based activity which leads to assessment, practice to achieve competence, formative assessment, programme planning and feedback.

Instruction

Attendance at a course of instruction is not a pre-requisite for an application for an assessment but potential Candidates are strongly advised to ensure that they are up to the standards that will be expected of them when they are assessed.

Access to Assessment

Assessment centres will be responsible for arranging assessment on behalf of the Candidate.

The minimum age limit for Candidates taking Certificates of Competence is 16 years. There is no upper age limit.

The assessment is one Mandatory unit:

3. 4

Unit 204

Remove branches and breakdown of crowns using a chainsaw Outcomes:

- 1. Be able to work safely (1) (Criteria 1.1 1.5)
- 2. Be able to remove branches and breakdown crowns using a chainsaw (2) (Criteria 2.1 2.5)
 - Know relevant health and safety legislation and industry good practice (3) (Criteria 3.1 3.5)
 - Know how to remove branches and breakdown crowns using a chainsaw (4) (Criteria 4.1 4.9)

Candidates must successfully achieve all assessment activities in the above unit.

Quality Assurance

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 City & Guilds 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 regular 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 a City & Guilds approved verifier.

Compliance with the verification requirements is a pre-requisite for Assessors remaining on the list of approved Assessors.

After assessment has been completed the Qualification Guidance is to be forwarded to the centre and retained by the centre until after the annual centre visit has taken place by a Quality Systems Consultant (QSC).

Performance Evaluation

The result of each assessment activity is evaluated against the following criteria:

- M = Met Meets or exceeds the assessment criteria by displaying a level of practical performance and/or underpinning knowledge. If the Criterion has been MET, a tick ☑ is to be put in the box provided in the left-hand column.
- NM = Not Met Does not satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria, being unable to perform the practical task satisfactorily or safely or being deficient in underpinning knowledge. If the Criterion is NOT MET, a cross ⊠ is to be put in the box provided in the left-hand column.

Appeals and Equal Opportunities

Centres must have their own auditable, appeals procedures. If a Candidate is not satisfied with the examination conditions or a Candidate feels the opportunity for examination is being denied, the Centre Manager should, in the first instance, address the problem. If, however the problem cannot be resolved, City & Guilds will arbitrate and an external verifier may be approached to offer independent advice. All appeals must be clearly documented by the Centre Manager and made available to the external verifier or City & Guilds if advice is required.

Should occasions arise when centres are not satisfied with any aspect of the external verification process, they should contact Verification Services at City & Guilds.

Access to the qualification is open to all, irrespective of gender, race, creed, age or special needs. The Centre Manager should ensure that no learner is subjected to unfair discrimination on any grounds in relation to access to assessment and to the fairness of the assessment. QCA requires City & Guilds to monitor centres to check whether equal opportunities policies are being adhered to.

Additional Information

May be sought from the relevant manufacturer's operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Questions should be related to the background or employment aspirations of the candidate and, where possible, product labels used should be representative of products typically used in that sector or industry.

Candidates who undertake this assessment and have met the requirements are reminded of their legal obligation to receive/undertake appropriate additional training in the use of any equipment that differs from that used during the assessment, but which they are nevertheless qualified to use.

Assessment Guidance for the Assessor

This qualification can only be assessed by an Assessor who is suitably qualified and meets the requirements of the awarding body. The Assessor must be independent **and cannot have been involved with the training of the Candidate**. Please see City & Guilds Centre Manual for guidance.

The Candidate is to be notified of the place and time of assessment and when formal assessment commences and ceases.

Assessors are reminded that assessment is a formal process and that assessment must be carried out using this Qualification Guidance. All relevant assessment criteria must be assessed against the criterion as specified in the Qualification Guidance. Assessment will be carried out by direct observation and by oral questioning of the Candidate. Where a specific number of responses are required theses may include other suitable answers not specified if they are deemed to be correct by the Assessor. The performance of the Candidate is to be recorded on the Qualification Guidance for the person assessing to record relevant information which can be utilised to provide feedback to the Candidate. After assessment has been completed the Qualification Guidance document is to be retained by the assessor and provided if required by a Quality Systems consultant (QSC).

Assessment Guidance for Candidate

A list of registered assessment centres is available from City & Guilds Land Based Services. (www.nptc.org.uk)

Assessment is a process by which it is confirmed that the candidate is competent in the unit(s) within the award to which the assessment relates. It is the process of collecting evidence about his/her capabilities and judging whether that evidence is sufficient to attribute competence.

The Candidate must be registered through the City & Guilds approved assessment centre for this qualification prior to the assessment.

The results of the assessment will be recorded on the Record of Assessment form (ROA).

The qualification guidance contains criteria relating to:

- Observation of practical performance
- Assessment of underpinning knowledge

Assessment and Site Requirements

Trees may be conifer or broadleaved. Trees between 200mm and 380mm: minimum 1, maximum 2 All branches to be removed Sections of stem (length/diameter in accordance with specification): minimum 2, maximum 6 Guide bar as appropriate to timber diameter

Trees over 560mm: minimum 1, maximum 2 Open spreading crowns with branches and/or stem under tension and compression Branches/limbs removal: minimum 20, maximum 30 Sections of stem (length/diameter in accordance with specification): minimum 2, maximum 6 A winch is to be used to restrain or turn a stem Guide bar as appropriate to timber diameter

Chainsaw Safe Practice

At all times during the assessment, equipment must be used in accordance with industry good practice, whatever the task being carried out.

- Assessors must hold a current 'First Aid at Work' Certificate.
- 2. All chainsaws used in assessments must comply with relevant Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG) guidance and HSE Chainsaws at Work INDG317(rev1), in terms of safety features, and be a model and size suited to the task(s) required.
- 4. Recommended guide bar lengths should be observed, although variations may be accepted at the discretion of the assessor where this is appropriate to the task.
- 5. Candidates should be familiar with the machinery, equipment and tools that they are going to use.
- 6. During chainsaw based assessments a spare working chainsaw must be available.
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn at all times by both the candidate and the assessor. All PPE used must 7. comply with relevant AFAG guidance, industry good practice, Health and Safety Executive publications and current legal requirements in terms of specification and use.
- 8. A First Aid kit meeting current regulations, of the appropriate size for the number of persons on site, must be available, along with appropriate fire fighting and suitable welfare facilities e.g. hand cleansing wipes.
- 9. The use of personal first aid kits must be line with current industry good practice.
- The assessor must ensure a site specific risk assessment has been carried out, sufficient control measures implemented and appropriate 10. emergency procedures recorded. All recorded risk assessment information should be clearly legible and accessible to candidates and completed for all locations where assessment activities are scheduled to take place.
- 11. Manual handling techniques must comply with current legislation and industry good practice.
- 12. Any necessary permission must have been granted, and notifications made as appropriate.
- All equipment being used for this assessment must comply with relevant legislative requirements. 13. 14.
- Information may be sought from the relevant operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.
- The current regulations for transport, handling and storage of fuel and oils must be complied with. 15.
- 16. Provision must be made to avoid the risk of environmental pollution.
- It is the responsibility of the assessor and the candidate to ensure that any additional requirements and provisions are met as relevant to this 17. qualification.
- 18. At all times during the assessment, candidates must act in a way so as not to endanger themselves, the assessor or any other person or equipment. Work must be carried out to achieve the requirements of the assessment criteria in accordance with all relevant and current legislation and good practice guidance.
- 19. If required, relevant records must be accurately kept.
- 20. Appropriate steps should be taken to maintain effective teamwork in respect of other persons on site during the assessment. .
- Any appropriate item of machinery complying with current legal requirements is acceptable for the assessment, provided it is suitably 21. equipped for all assessment activities to be carried out.
- 22. All equipment being used for this assessment must comply with the relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998.
- A breach of Health and Safety that puts any person at risk during the assessment process will result in the assessment being 23. terminated and the Candidate not meeting the required standard.

This may include taking steps to ensure effective communication and safety precautions.

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Candidate	A	Name:		Da	ite:	Start Time:	Dura	atior	ı :		
Candidate B Name:			Date:		Start Time:	Duration:					
Candidate	Candidate C Name:			Da	ite:	Start Time:	Duration:				
Candidate D Name:			Da	ite:	Start Time:	Dura	atior	ו:			
CRITERIA NUMBER		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE			SSESSMENT ACTIVITIES		C A	AND B	IDA [.] C	TE D
1.1 1	risks work prope	ify the hazards and associated with the ing area and the osed work K ASSESSMENT)	Three hazards and risks w the working area Three hazards and risks w the proposed work			thing with the potential to ca might be harmed and how) one Met√ Not	,				
3.2 3	planr	ne the emergency ning and procedures ant to the working	Five emergency procedure	es	include: location name grid reference designated mee site location nam nearest access street name/dist type of access (wheel drive) suitable helicopt phone number of location of neare hospital and pho	ne point rict public road/light vehicles, fo er landing area of nearest doctor est accident and emergency one number	ur-				
3.1 3	safet	ne the key health and y legislation and, stry good practice	Two points Health and Safety at Work Act 1974		good practice listed b Health and Safety at	m the legislation and indust elow: Work Act (HSWA) – or employers and employees	ry				
			Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 19 (PUWER 98)		(PUWER) – • operators adequ • equipment fit for • other	•	ns 				
			Arboriculture Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG)		information	ustrial good practice					
		cribe how	One cause		Environmental dama	Met ✓ Not ged may be caused by:	wet X				
3.4 3 Continued	envir	onmental damage can inimised			 incorrect storage defective machine poor work praction other 	e of fuel and oil nery					

CRITERIA NUMBER	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	C	AND B	IDA ⁻	TE D
		One prevention	Environmental damage may be prevented by:				
Cont			following principles of industry good practicegood housekeeping				
3.4			 appropriately trained operators 				
3			• other				
			 Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Describe how to use and	Describe two	Uses of equipment may include:				-
3.3	maintain tools, equipment and personal protective	Equipment not to include the	 lifting rolling 				
3	equipment (PPE)	candidates chainsaw or maintenance tools	 protect the operator 				
			other Maintenance of tools and equipment and PPE may				
			include:				
			cleaning				
			inspection other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
1.2	Use appropriate tools, equipment and personal	Assessor to observe and risk assess	All tools, equipment and Personal Protective Equipment are used in line with industry good				
_	protective equipment (PPE)		practice e.g. AFAG/INDG				
1	(TOOLS, EQUIPMENT &		Met ✓ Not Met X				
	PPE) Carry out pre-start checks	Assessor to observe	Pre start checks and setting of the machine to include:				
2.1	and setting of the machine for use		• chain tension and condition checked for safe and				
2			 effective use safety features checked for condition and function 				
2			 external nuts and bolts checked for security 				
			chainsaw contains sufficient fuel and chain oil for operations				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
2.2	Demonstrate safe starting of the chainsaw	Assessor to observe	The safe starting procedure of a chainsaw should include:				
2.2		If any of the post start checks identify the chainsaw as unfit	ensuring appropriate safe working distances from				
2		for use, it must not be used	 both fuel and other operators is maintained correct PPE worn 				
		for the assessment	remove guidebar cover				
			 place saw on ground, where appropriate, ensuring no debris can catch the chain 				
			 secure rear handle 				
			 controls set as recommended by the manufacturer 				
			ensure chain brake set according to				
			 manufacturer's recommendations adopt safe stance 				
			 find compression pulling starter cord sharply and 				
			firmly choke released when engine fires 				
			 half throttle released when engine runs 				
			Post starting checks of a chainsaw should include:				
			 ensuring the saw chain stops when the engine revs return to idle 				
			• ensuring the chain brake functions according to				
			 the manufacturer's specification ensuring the stop switch works correctly 				
			• ensuring lubrication to the guide bar and chain is	_			
			working properly Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Describe how to identify	Candidate to describe all	Identification of tension and compression in branches				H
4.2	tension and compression in branches		may be completed: visually 				
4			 manually 				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
L	1						

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT		AND		
NUMBER	CRITERIA	GUIDANCE	ACTIVITIES	Α	В	С	D
4.3	Outline the implications on choice of severing method	Two implications	Implications on choice of severing method may include: • safe				
4.5	g		effective				
4			 productive 				
-			other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Describe how to deal with	One method	Small diameter timber under severe tension/				-
4.4	small diameter timber		compression is dealt with:				
	under severe tension/compression		using multiple tension cuts				
4	tension/compression		 using multiple compression cuts 				
			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
4.0	State how and when to	Two how Two when	How:				
4.8	deal with trapped branches	IWO when	• lever				
4			sever, using appropriate method				
4			When:				
			as they arise				
			when it is safe				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Describe how the method	Two methods	Method of removing branches in conifers and				
4.1	of removing branches will	TWO methods	broadleaves may include:				
4.1	vary with tree species,		 snedding 				
4	form and condition		delimbing				
-			 other 				
		Two differences					
			Differences in conifers and broadleaves may include:				
			remove the whole branch				
			remove branch in sections				
			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Describe process for	State one	The process for removing branches/limbs to include:	-		-	+
4.6	removing branches/limbs		roll the tree				
	above shoulder height		• use of a pole saw				
4			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Work in a way which	Assessor to observe	all activities must be completed in a way which				+
1.3	maintains health and		protects the operator and those around him or her				
	safety and is consistent with relevant legislation		Met ✓ Not Met X				
1	and industry good practice						
	(SAFE WORK)					L	
1.4	Carry out work to minimise environmental damage	Assessor to observe	• it is ensured that any possible environmental				
1.4	Christian Callage		damage is minimised at all times during branch removal activities				
1	(ENVIRONMENTAL						
1	AWARENESS)		Met ✓ Not Met X				

 2.3 Remove branches from felled trees using a recognised method 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 8 7 7 7 8 7 7 8 8 9 9			В	С	D
2 recognised method Trees between 200mm and 380mm: minimum 1, maximum 2 All branches to be removed Trees over 560mm: minimum All branches to be removed Trees over 560mm: minimum					
2 Trees between 200mm and 380mm: minimum 1, maximum 2 All branches to be removed Trees over 560mm: minimum	e or				
 neither handle released while the chain is maximum 2 All branches to be removed Trees over 560mm: minimum neither handle released while the chain is maximum 2 apply chain brake if reaching across bar apply chain brake when negotiating obstacl net walking when the coursis on the course 					
All branches to be removed Trees over 560mm: minimum All branches to be removed • apply chain brake if reaching across bar • apply chain brake when negotiating obstacl • other the server is on the server i					
Trees over 560mm: minimum					
Trees over 560mm: minimum					
1, maximum 2 • not walking when the saw is on the same si					
Open spreading crowns with the tree as the operator without applying the		_	_	_	
branches and/or stem under chainbrake	- lan a a la E				
tension and compression • avoid working on lower side of tree on side Branches/limbs removal: • operator not reaching too far round with say	-				
Branches/limbs removal: minimum 20, maximum 30 operator not reaching too far round with sav	v on				
A hand operated winch must					
be used to restrain or turn a stem					
avoiding overreaching with chainsaw					
not straddling the stem					
compression and tension forces assessed a					
appropriate cuts used					
using an under-sweep technique if applicab	le 🗌				
winch used as appropriate to restrain stem					
Choice of work method should account for:					
a systematic sequence of cuts and position	of the				
saw to remove branches as appropriate for					
branching habit					
the top cut at an appropriate diameter					
 top removed with a safe method of cutting 					
Met ✓ Not	Met X] [
Turn tree and remove A hand operated winch must Tree turned and under branches removed taking					
2.4 under branches using be used to restrain or turn a account of:					
appropriate aid tools and stem over 560mm • the stem turned using appropriate aid tools/ method(s) where			_	_	
	~				
appropriate using the stem for protection when removin remaining branches as appropriate	g [٦			
using a safe and effective method to sever					
remaining branches					
all branches being removed flush with the s	tem 🗌				
Met ✓ Not	Met X] [
State how and when to use State all How to use a winch to assist with snedding/de-lir	mbing				
4.5 winches to assist with the may include:	J				
snedding/de-limbing of trees					
4 • identify anchor points					
select appropriate equipment					
assemble winching system					
operate winching system					
When to use a winch to assist with snedding may include:	y				
• restrain					
• roll					
• move					
Seven required, first five are to be stated Factors and Precautions to consider when winch should include:	ing				
capacity of the winch					
communication method between operators					
security of anchor points					
compatibility of components/strength loss o equipment in certain configurations					
serviceability and inspection of all compone					
PPE required for winching operations					
competency of operators					
roles and responsibilities understood by all					
danger zones including during off-set winch	-				
safe working distances					
Met ✓ Not	Met X] [

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CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSOR			AND		ГЕ
NUMBER	CRITERIA	GUIDANCE	ACTIVITIES	Α	В	С	D
4.7	Explain the advantages of leaving a clean stem after de-branching	Three advantages	 Advantages of a clean stem may include: reducing possible injury to the person moving the timber 				
4			 reduce friction/collecting debris when pulling timber along the ground 				
			 prevent damage to other trees when extracting timber 				
			 allowing timber to easily enter machines (e.g. chipper, peeler or saw bench) 				
			easier stacking or loading				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	State how to deal with	State two	Brash and branches may be dealt with by:				
4.9	brash and branches after snedding/de-limbing		chipping				
	shedding/de iimbing		stacking				
4			windrowing				
			• baling				
			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
_	Clean and tidy working		A clean and tidy working area should be left ensuring:				
2.5	area		 no branches are left on fences, paths, roads, timber stacks, young trees etc or in ditches, ponds, 				
2			waterways etc				
			brash left as per site specification				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
3.5	Describe the correct methods for disposing	Two methods	Disposal of waste from maintenance activities may include:				
	waste		 use of designated waste/recycle bins 				
3			 waste oils placed in approved containers for disposal 				
			• other				
	Dispass of users a state 1		Met ✓ Not Met X				\square
1.5	Dispose of waste safely in line with legislation	Assessor to observe	 All waste produced from maintenance activities is disposed of in line with legislation, good practice and/or site requirements 				
1	(WASTE DISPOSAL)		Met ✓ Not Met X				

Candidate A	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓
	Signed: D	ate:		
Candidate B	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓
	Signed: D	ate:		
Candidate C	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓

Signed:		

Date:

Candidate D	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	Tick ✓	The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))	Tick ✓
	Signed:	Date:		

For use by Internal Verifier ONLY if the assessment process was internally verified (Internal Verifier to complete ONE of the boxes below)

I observed an assessment process taking place and I am satisfied that the assessment was conducted in line with the qualification requirements and that the judgement of the Assessor was appropriate.	Tick ✓
I observed an assessment process taking place. The following were noted as areas of concern.	Tick ✓
Signed: Date:	