# CITY & GUILDS NPTC LEVEL 2 AWARD IN SUPPORTING COLLEAGUES UNDERTAKING OFF-GROUND TREE RELATED OPERATIONS (QCF)



QAN 600/6435/3

**VERSION 3** 

# **QUALIFICATION GUIDANCE**

# **Integrated Assessment**

## **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 8	Award In Supporting Colleagues Undertaking Off-Ground Tree Related Operations
Unit(s)	2 0 7	Support colleagues undertaking off ground tree related operations
Learning Time (LT)	2 0 7	LT 23 (3 Credits) (* see note on page 2)
Recommended Assessment Duration		2.0 – 2.5 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 Supporting Colleagues Undertaking Off-Ground Tree Related Operations (QCF)

### **Qualification Guidance**

#### Introduction

The scheme will be administered by City & Guilds

City & Guilds will:

Publish

- Scheme regulations
- Qualification guidance
- Training materials
- Trainers support materials

Approve centres to co-ordinate and administer the scheme Set standards for the training of Verifiers and Assessors Recruit, train and deploy Verifiers 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 Credit 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:

Unit 207

Support Colleagues Undertaking Off-Ground Tree Related Operations Outcomes:

- 1. Be able to work safely (1) (Criteria 1.1 1.5)
- 2. Be able to support colleagues undertaking off ground tree related operations (2) (Criteria 2.1 2.6)
- 3. Know relevant health and safety legislation and industry good practice (3) (Criteria 3.1 3.4)
- 4. Know how to support colleagues undertaking off ground tree related operations (4) (Criteria 4.1 4.6)

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:

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 Trainer/Assessor

This qualification can be assessed by a Trainer who has trained the Candidate (a Trainer/Assessor) or by a third party (an Assessor) not directly involved with training of the Candidate providing they are suitably qualified and meet the requirements of the awarding body. Please see City & Guilds Centre Manual for guidance.

It is envisaged that assessment will be carried out after all of the training has been completed. However assessment may take place at intervals after each 'period' of training and may be effectively integrated into the training programme. The Candidate must be informed when assessment is taking place in terms of when formal assessment commences and when its ceases. It is not permissible to assess whilst training is being carried out. Assessment must be a separate activity.

Trainer/Assessors are reminded that assessment is a formal process. Assessment must be carried out using the Qualification Guidance. All relevant assessment criteria must be assessed against the criteria 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 these 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 as directed by completing the tick boxes. Space has been provided on the Qualification Guidance for the person assessing to record relevant information which can be utilised to provide feedback to the Candidate. Trainer/Assessors are reminded that feedback from the Candidate is required on the Record of Assessment that is sent to City & Guilds as part of the quality assurance process. After assessment has been completed the assessment schedule 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).

Re-assessment cannot take place until further training has been provided. The Candidate may only have a maximum of 3 attempts.

## **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

#### **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 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.
- Appropriate steps should be taken to maintain effective teamwork in respect of other persons on site during the assessment. 20.
- 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.

Published by City & Guilds **Building 500 Abbey Park** Stareton Warwickshire **CV8 2LY** 

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				_							
Candidate	A Name:		Date:		Start Time:	Dura	uration:				
Candidate	B Name:		Date:		Start Time:	Duration:					
Candidate C Name:		Date:			Start Time:	Duration:					
Candidate D Name:			Date:		Start Time:	Dura	ation	1:			
CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSOR			SSESSMENT		C/ A	AND B	IDA1		
NUMBER	CRITERIA Identify the hazards and	GUIDANCE Three hazards and risks w	ith Ido	ACTIVITIES  Identify hazards (anything with the potential to cause						D	
1.1	risks associated with the	the working area	har	m) and risks (who	might be harmed and how),	,					
	working area and the proposed work	Three hazards and risks w	relevant to:								
1		the proposed work		• the work area • the work to be done  Met✓ Not Met X							
	(RISK ASSESSMENT)										
	Outling the amarganay	State five			Wety Not i	viet X	Ш	Ш		Ш	
3.4	Outline the emergency procedures relevant to the	State five		location name     grid references							
	working area			<ul><li>grid reference</li><li>designated meeting place</li></ul>							
3			•	site location nam	= :						
			•	nearest access p	point						
			•	street name/distr							
			•	type of access (p wheel drive)	oublic road/light vehicles, for	ur-					
			•	suitable helicopt	er landing area						
			•	phone number o	· ·						
			•		est accident and emergency		_				
			•	hospital and pho works manager							
			•	_	t number/mobile number						
			•	other							
					Met ✓ Not I	Met X					
3.1	Outline the key health and safety legislation, industry good practice and any	Two key points from each:		tline key points from ad practice listed b	m the legislation and industrelow:	ry					
2	additional requirements	Health and Safety at Work	Hea	alth and Safety at	Work Act (HSWA):						
3		Act 1974 (HSWA)	•	J	or employers and employees	3					
			maintain sa		aces of work						
			•	other							
		Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 19	•	vision and Use of JWER):	Work Equipment Regulation	าร					
		(PUWER0	•	operators adequ	ately trained						
			•	equipment fit for	purpose						
			•	other							
		One purpose of Arboricultu and Forestry Advisory Gro		oriculture Forestry	Advisory Group (AFAG)						
		(AFAG) Guides	•		strial good practice						
			•	other							
		Three key points from Wor at Height Regulations 2005		ulations relating to	ts of the Work at Height arboricultural operations in t is properly planned and	ıclude:					
			•		rith work at height are comp						
			•		ork at height are assessed a cequipment is selected and						
Continued			•		ork at height is properly insp						

CRITERIA NUMBER	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	C.	AND B	IDAT	TE D
	ONTENIA	Four key points from Lifting	The main requirements of the LOLER regulations	A	В		<u> </u>
Cont		Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998	include:  Iifting operations are managed				
3.1		(LOLER)	equipment subjected to thorough examination				
3			items for PPE or rigging are clearly distinguishable				
			equipment is fit for purpose				
			systems are correctly designed				
			other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Explain how to monitor and	Two examples of each	Ways to monitor and control sites may include:				
4.1	control sites to ensure safe working		<ul> <li>all operators fully involved in the risk assessment process</li> </ul>				
4	-		clear methods of communication established				
			hierarchy of staff roles on site				
			regular workplace auditing     other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
4.2	State why aerial operators require support	Three reasons	Aerial support may include:				
4.2	roquiro support		<ul> <li>maintain a safe work environment</li> <li>provide necessary tools and equipment as</li> </ul>				
4			required				
			allow for effective use of time and resources				
			conform to good practice e.g. aerial rescue     other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
4.6	Explain why it is important to inform the climber	Two reasons	The importance of informing the climber promptly of changes may include:				
7.0	promptly and clearly of any		to help prevent injury				
4	changes in the hazards and risks of the site		to help prevent damage to persons or property				
			may effect the sequence of work     other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
3.2	Describe how to use and maintain tools, equipment	Describe <b>two</b>	Maintenance of tools and equipment and PPE may include:				
	and personal protective equipment	Equipment not to include the candidates chainsaw or	cleaning				
3	очиртоп	maintenance tools	<ul><li>inspection</li><li>other</li></ul>				
			• other				
			Uses of equipment may include:				
			• lifting				
			• rolling				
			<ul><li>protect the operator</li><li>other</li></ul>				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
4.3	Describe how to ensure that access equipment and	State <b>five</b> items of access equipment	Commonly used access equipment may include:  • MEWP				
710	systems are in safe		ladders				
4	working order		spikes				
			• cranes				
			tree climbing equipment     other				
Continued							

CRITERIA NUMBER	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES			IDA	
	CRITERIA	State three ways	How to ensure equipment and systems are in safe	Α	В	С	D
Cont 4.3			working order may include:         maintain in accordance with manufacturers     recommendations				
4.0			operator checks completed				
4			statutory examinations completed				
			ongoing work place inspections				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
1.3	Work in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent	Assessor to observe	all activities must be completed in a way which protects the operator and those around him or her				
1	with relevant legislation and industry good practice		Met ✓ Not Met X				
	(SAFE WORK)						
1.4	Carry out work to minimise environmental damage	Assessor to observe	<ul> <li>It is ensured that any possible environmental damage is minimised at all times during tree related operations</li> </ul>				
1	(ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS)		Met ✓ Not Met X				
1.2	Use appropriate tools, equipment and personal protective equipment	Assessor to observe and risk assess	All tools, equipment and Personal Protective Equipment is used in line with industry good practice e.g. AFAG/INDG				
1	(PPE) (TOOLS, EQUIPMENT & PPE)		Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Prepare additional	Two items of equipment	Preparation of additional equipment to support aerial				1
2.1	equipment to support aerial operations		operations may include:  • fuelling				
2			starting and operational checks				
_			pre-use inspection				
			• set up				
			assist in the preparation for use     other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
4.4	Describe how to safely pass and retrieve	One passing	Safely passing equipment to the climber may include:				
4.4	equipment to the climber		appropriate knot/hitch tied into climbers line     separate tool line				
4			• other				
		One retrieving	Safely retrieving equipment from the climber may include:				
			climber sends a loop of rope from the climbing hitch system down to the ground				
			lowered on tail end of climbing line/tool line				
			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
2.2	Pass and retrieve equipment to and from the	One chainsaw	Equipment is passed to the climber:  equipment is appropriately attached to the climb				
	aerial operator	One rope	line/tool line				
2			the ground person communicates to the climber that the equipment is ready to ascend the tree				
			ground person leaves the drop zone				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Maintain the climbing		Climbing system is maintained by:				<u> </u>
2.5	system		ensuring ropes are kept free of entanglement				
2			additional hazards are not created				
_			Met ✓ Not Met X	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT		AND		
NUMBER	CRITERIA	GUIDANCE	ACTIVITIES	Α	В	С	D
2.4	Assist with the removal of aerial tree sections	One pulling	Use of equipment for pulling may include:  assessment of ground conditions				
2.7		Candidate to set up	<ul> <li>assessment of ground conditions</li> <li>appropriate use of PPE</li> </ul>				
2		appropriate pulling/lowering	effective communication with climber				
_		system	pull commences under the direction of the climber				
			·				
		One lowering	Use of equipment for lowering may include:				
		Candidate to set up <b>one</b> of	appropriate lowering device set up e.g. capstan, bollard				
		the following lowering	operated under the direction of the climber				
		devices:	appropriate use of PPE				
		□ capstan □ bollard	branch material is lowered to the ground using				
		□ other	friction to control the speed of descent				
			the Candidate will operate the chosen friction				
			control method from a safe position				
			awareness of any obstacles or obstructions				
			Met ✓ Not Met X	Ш	Ш		Ш
4.5	State why it is important to	Three reasons	The importance of removing arisings from the drop zone may include:				
4.5	remove arisings from the drop zone as soon as it is		1				
4	safe to do so		<ul><li>prevent entanglement of ropes</li><li>prevent entanglement of arisings</li></ul>				
4			reduce slip and trip hazards				
			allows for clear work space to be maintained				
			provides efficiency to the task				
			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Enter the drop zone safely	Assessor to observe	Entering the drop zone should include:				
2.3	and effectively		hazard evaluation of drop zone				
			correct PPE worn				
2			clear communication established with the climber				
			only enters the drop zone when provided with an all clear				
			communication maintained throughout				
	Describe the conset	Otata fare	Met ✓ Not Met X	Ш	Ш	Ш	ᆜ
3.3	Describe the correct methods for disposing of	State two	Disposal of waste from workplace activities may include:				
	waste		use of designated waste/recycle bins				
3			empty containers removed from site e.g. oil				
			litter taken home with operators				
			• other				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Clean and tidy the work	Assessor to observe	Crown sections are broken down:				
2.6	area		appropriate use of PPE and equipment				
			operation completed in safe working area				
2			safe working distances maintained				
			cutting operation in accordance with good practice				
			ensure material is stable prior to cutting				
			observe tension/compression in the material				
			material is appropriately prepared for further processing				
			, ,				
			Arisings should be stacked:				
Continued			<ul> <li>branch wood and cord wood are stacked as work progresses appropriate to the method of disposal</li> </ul>				
			p. 59. 55555 appropriate to the method of disposal				$\Box$

CRITERIA	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSOR	ASSESSMENT		AND	IDA	ΓЕ
NUMBER	CRITERIA	GUIDANCE	ACTIVITIES	Α	В	С	D
Cont			The area is cleaned/ restored to its original tidy condition using:				
			a rake				
2.6			a blower				
2			Ensuring:				
			appropriate PPE used				
			tools operated in safe manner with correct manual handling techniques adopted				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
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				
	(MASTE DISPOSAL)		and/or site requirements				
1	(WASTE DISPOSAL)		Met ✓ Not Met X				

Summary of Assessmer	t (The )	Assessor	is to	complete	the	followina a	as appror	oriate)
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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	Date:  Tick reason(s)  Date:  Tick reason(s)  Date:  Tick reason(s)  Date:  Tick reason(s)  Tick reason(s)							
Candidate B	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	✓							
	Signed: D	ate:							
Candidate C	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria		The Candidate has not met all of the assessment criteria; (state reason(s))						
	Signed: D	ate:							
Candidate D	Candidate has met all of the assessment criteria	<b>✓</b>							
	Signed:	Date:							
For (Int	use by Internal Verifier ONLY if the assessment process was in ernal Verifier to complete ONE of the boxes below)	nternally	v verified						
	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.								
I ob	I observed an assessment process taking place. The following were noted as areas of concern.								
Sig	Signed: Date:								