City & Guilds Level 3 CPD Module in Aerial Tree Rigging (0041-05)

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 005 Aerial tree rigging** in the Qualification Handbook, covering the following learning outcomes:

LO1 Carry out aerial tree rigging

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 3 Certificate of Competence in Aerial Tree Rigging (0039-32) * **

*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: **2 - 4 hours**
- Expected maximum number of candidates per day: **2**
- 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 of sufficient size and form to enable all assessment criteria to be assessed
- Branches of a minimum diameter of 100mm
- Vertical timber with a minimum diameter of 200mm

Machinery/equipment

- LOLER compliant Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) if used
- LOLER compliant climbing equipment with documented evidence, for the Candidate and the Assessor
- LOLER compliant rigging equipment
- Top handled or rear handled Chainsaw (max guide bar 15 inch)
- Maintenance tools
- Handsaw
- 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	☐	☐	☐		
2	Set-up site in accordance with the risk assessment and AA guide TG1	☐	☐	☐		
3	Select and wear appropriate compliant personal protective equipment	☐	☐	☐		
4	Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree and work at height assessment prior to commencing the work	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	Inspect all access/tree climbing and rigging equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6	Select compatible components to make up the rigging system	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	Estimate the anticipated loads	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	Describe how to minimise shock loading in the rigging system	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	Describe methods of adding friction into the rigging system	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
10	Explain the considerations for selecting friction devices	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
11	Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
12	Remove tree sections using suitable rigging techniques and appropriate cuts as per job specification	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
13	Dispose of waste/ arisings in line with job specification	☐	☐	☐		
14	Communicate appropriately with ground staff	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	Used appropriate tools, equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	☐	☐	☐		
16	Carried out work to minimise environmental damage	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
17	Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
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)	Set-up site in accordance with the risk assessment and AA guide TG1. Worksite layout factors to consider: • 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
3	Select and wear appropriate compliant personal protective equipment (Topic 1.3)	Candidate to select compliant PPE and safety clothing for tree climbing and chainsaw use to include: • all PPE should conform to CE/EN standards • tree climbing helmet • personal first aid kit • knife with retractable blade or handsaw • chainsaw protective footwear with good grip and ankle support • non- snag clothing • eye protection • hearing protection • chainsaw protective clothing • appropriate chainsaw with lanyard. Candidate to select appropriate compliant climbing equipment

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
4	Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree and work at height assessment prior to commencing the work (Topic 1.4)	Potential hazards that may be encountered: • 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 Working at height assessment considering: • 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 minimises the distance and consequence of a fall
5	Inspect all access/tree climbing and rigging equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation (Topic 1.5)	Present evidence of LOLER compliance, inspect equipment and comment on condition.
6	Select compatible components to make up the rigging system (Topic 1.6)	Selection of compatible components considering: • knowledge of loads that equipment may be subject to • consideration of strength loss due to configuration, age and condition • compatibility with any other components Components which may include: • rigging blocks • rigging ropes • connectors • slings • strops • lowering devices • redirect pulleys

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria

7	Estimate the anticipated loads
	(Topic 1.7)
		Weight of the section and mass of the load:
		• log mass chart (Length x diameter = log mass x safety factor x species correction factor).
		
		Load for the rigging point when lowering timber:
		• Rigging point above the load:
		  o log mass x 2 = load.
		• Rigging point below the load:
		  o log mass x 11 = load.

8	Describe how to minimise shock loading in the rigging system (Topic 1.8)	Describe how to minimise shock loading in the rigging system: • Allowing sections to run • Removing smaller sections • Placing more rope in the system • Reconfigure rigging system
9	Describe methods of adding friction into the rigging system (Topic 1.9)	Methods of adding friction into the rigging system: • Natural tree structure • Rigging bollard • Capstan • Figure of eight • Rigging rings
10	Explain the considerations for selecting friction devices (Topic 1.10)	Considerations for the selection of friction devices: • size/ mass of the load • availability of anchor points • safety being compromised • simplicity of operation • potential of equipment damage

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
11	Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree (Topic 1.11)	Establish initial anchor points taking into account: • 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. Technique used taking into account: • efficient use of technique chosen • 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. Access work positions within the crown taking into account: • 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. Climber achieves position to receive the chainsaw. Work position for cutting attained: • 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. All anchor points selected taking into consideration: • 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.

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
12	Remove tree sections using suitable rigging techniques and appropriate cuts as per job specification (Topic 1.12)	Tree sections removed using the following techniques: • tip tie • butt tie • cradle • vertical free fall • vertical lowered section. Taking the following points into account: • suitable anchor points for climbing and lowering lines • relative positions of climbing and lowering lines • appropriate equipment selected for the anchor point of the lowering line • use of a craning fork where appropriate • appropriate means for the control of friction employed in the lowering system • manageable sections selected • position and method of attaching rope to the section • use of pull line if appropriate • appropriate safe and secure working position attained • characteristics and properties of the wood considered • correct position, depth and accuracy of cuts • chain brake applied or saw switched off whilst lowering sections • the climber must direct the ground operations • limbs are lowered under control.
13	Dispose of waste/ arisings in line with job specification (Topic 1.13)	All waste produced from activities is disposed of in line with legislation, good practice and/or site requirements.
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 during work activities.

Activity number and description from skills evaluation		Assessment criteria
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

About City & Guilds

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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