# CITY & GUILDS NPTC LEVEL 2 AWARD IN THE SAFE USE OF BRUSH-CUTTERS AND TRIMMERS (QCF) QAN 601/1299/2



## **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 1 4	Machinery
Qualification Programme No	0 0 1 4 - 2 1	L2 Award in the Safe Use of Brush-cutters and Trimmers
Unit(s)	2 0 1	Trimmer and brushcutter operations
Endorsement(s)	0 0 1	Trimmer
	0 0 2	Brushcutter
Learning Time (LT)	2 0 1	LT 23 (3 Credits) (* see note on page 2)
Recommended Assessment Duration		1.5 – 3 hours per Candidate

## City and Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Brush-cutters and Trimmers (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.

#### 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.

## \* 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.

## 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 consists of one compulsory unit:

Unit 201	(Mandatory)	(Credit Value 3)

Outcome 1.	know how to carry out a risk assessment (Criteria 1.1 – 1.1)
Outcome 2.	Know the health and safety legislation that underpins trimmer and brushcutter operations (Criteria 2.1 – 2.1)
Outcome 3.	Know the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for trimmer and brushcutter operations (Criteria 3.1 – 3.1)
Outcome 4.	Know the health and safety features of the equipment being used (Criteria 4.1 – 4.1)
Outcome 5.	Know how to maintain the trimmer / brushcutter (Criteria 5.1 - 5.5)
Outcome 6.	Know how to operate a trimmer / brushcutter (Criteria 6.1 – 6.2)
Outcome 7.	Understand different operating techniques (Criteria 7.1 – 7.2)
Outcome 8.	Know how to store equipment safely and appropriately (Criteria 8.1 – 8.1)

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

Endorsement: The assessment may be taken on a machine with any type of cutting mechanism for example:

001 Trimmer002 Brushcutter

The certificate will be endorsed accordingly. Candidates are encouraged to take their assessment with different cutting mechanisms to broaden their certification.

Only two endorsements can be taken in any one registration.

## **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.

#### Quality Assurance continued...

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).

As part of the quality assurance process, a minimum of **two** observations are required to be undertaken for each qualification that is assessed by a Trainer/Assessor. These will be carried out by an internal Verifier appointed by the Centre. One observation will be conducted in the presence of the Quality Systems Consultant. In respect of risk management, there is an expectation that additional observations up to a maximum of **four** will be carried out for the inexperienced or newly qualified Trainer/Assessor or Assessors.

#### **Performance Evaluation**

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

- 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 bottom right-hand column of each section.
- 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 bottom right-hand column of each section.

## **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.

## Validation of Equipment

A Manufacturer's instruction book or other operator's manual should be available. It is permissible for the Candidate to use this during formal assessment.

All equipment being used for this assessment must comply with the relevant requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998.

Vehicles must comply with Department of Transport and Road Traffic Acts where relevant.

Any appropriate item of machinery complying with legal requirements is acceptable for the assessment, provided it is suitably equipped for all assessment activities to be carried out.

## Safe Practice

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

The Assessor must ensure that a site specific risk assessment is carried out.

All equipment must be operated in such a way that the Candidate, Assessor, other persons, or other equipment are not endangered.

All ancillary equipment, when detached, must be safely parked.

Failure to operate safely and comply with these requirements will result in the Candidate not meeting the required standard.

Warning signs stating that an assessment is in progress should be available.

The Assessor may stop the assessment on the grounds of safety at any time at his/her discretion.

Before any assessments take place, Assessor & Candidate should be aware of any local or national issues to prevent breach of security, safety and any cross contamination or damage to the local environment.

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.

## 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).

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

#### 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 the candidate's 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

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Candidate to state two safety precautions that should be observed with flammable liquids  This may include:  • no smoking/naked flames • avoiding contact with hot surfaces • fuel topped up to correct level allowing for expansion • any spillage is dealt with using the correct method  Met ✓ Not Met X    It includes: • clean power unit and covers for the trimmer/brushcutter  This criterion will be met in 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 and need not be assessed separately  This criterion will be met in 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 and need not be assessed separately    Candidate to state two safety precautions that should be observed with flammable in avoiding contact with hot surfaces • avoiding contact with hot surfaces • avoiding contact with hot surfaces • fuel topped up to correct level allowing for expansion • any spillage is dealt with using the correct method    Met ✓ Not Met X								
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sharpen brushcutter blade     and /or			not be assessed separately					
				sharpen brushcutter blade				
● remove trimmer head and refit new cord or				and /or				
Tomovo amanino noda dila folia now obla oi				remove trimmer head and refit new cord or				
Met ✓ Not Met X □ □ □				Met ✓ Not Met X				

CRITERIA NUMBER	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	C.	AND B	IDA <sup>*</sup>	TE D
	Describe the procedures	The candidate is required to	Power unit and covers:			Ť	
Unit 201 5.3	for maintaining the engine of the trimmer/brushcutter	carry out the following activities and describe to the assessor what they are doing	inspect for security and damage – damaged equipment should not be used				
		and why these activities are necessary	<ul> <li>external fixings present and secure</li> <li>debris removed from fins/air intake – allows for</li> </ul>				
			cooling of engine  exhaust (muffler) is secure and intact – reduce				
			noise and vibration				
		The candidate to <b>state</b> the	Service air filter:				
		purpose of the air filter	air filter prevents debris from entering the carburettor and needs to be clean to maintain correct air/fuel ratio				
			debris removed from around filter prior to removal				
			filter removed (choke closed or protected)				
			filter cleaned or new filter obtained (as appropriate)				
			filter replaced and cover fitted				
		The candidate to <b>state</b> the	Service the spark plug:				
		relevance of the colour of the deposits on the spark plug	if fuel rich – deposits dark brown to black				
		deposits on the spark plug	if fuel weak – deposits light brown to white				
			engine cover and spark plug removed				
			plug cleaned appropriately				
			wear/damage assessed (replaced if necessary)     or				
			gap size checked and set if necessary				
		The candidate to <b>assess</b> the	Service starter recoil mechanism:				
		recoil mechanism and comment on tension and	when the spring is slack the cord does not fully retract				
		condition of cord	over tight spring binds the cord before it can be fully extended				
			recognise wear points; at base of toggle and where attached to pulley				
			starter cover removed and ventilation slots cleaned				
			cord inspected for wear				
			cord and coil spring released and re-tensioned				
		The candidate is required only to <b>state</b> how to service	Fuel filter (candidate required only to state how to service the fuel filter):				
		the fuel filter	fuel cap to be removed				
			filter to be located and removed from tank using an appropriate tool				
			condition of the filter determined, replacement if necessary				
			cleaning procedures include using non flammable detergents followed by rinsing and drying				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
	Describe the procedures	The candidate is required to					F
Unit 201 5.4	for maintaining the cutting heads	carry out the following activities and describe to the assessor what they are doing and why these activities are necessary					
		Check angle drive and	Angle drive and gearbox:				
		gearbox	access plug removed				
			lubricant checked				
Continued			lubricant topped up (if appropriate)				

CRITERIA NUMBER	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	C.	AND B	IDA <sup>-</sup>	TE D
HOMBER	OMILIMA	Sharpen brushcutter blade	Sharpen brushcutter blade:	<u> </u>	В	٥	D
Cont		(secured in vice or clamped	gloves worn when handling brushcutter blade				
		to bench)	remove blade guard				
Unit 201			secure blade using appropriate method (locking)				
5.4			pin, spanner etc)  loosen and remove retaining nut (L/H thread)				
			remove blade assembly				
			check the blade for length				
			check the blade for damage				
			<ul> <li>secure the blade for filing (any acceptable method used)</li> </ul>				
			blade sharpened correctly (blade template used if appropriate)				
			blade balance checked				
			blade re-checked for cracks/damage				
			drive shaft and collar cleaned				
		and/or	blade refitted, washer and lock replaced securely				
		Remove trimmer head and refit new cord or nylon blades	Remove trimmer head and refit new cord or nylon blades:				
		(as appropriate)	secure nylon head using an appropriate method				
			remove retaining nut				
			Remove casing and comment on the condition of:				
			• casing				
			• ferrules				
			retaining nut				
			=				
			check cord or blades for damage				
			refit existing or new cord or blades (as				
			appropriate)				
			refit nylon head			Ш	
			refit washer and nut and secure appropriately				
			nylon trimmed to recommended length				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
Unit 201	Describe the procedures	Candidate to <b>describe</b> how	May include:				
Unit 201	for making adjustments to the trimmer/brushcutter	to make adjustments to the engine of a brushcutter or	adjusting the engine idling screw (if applicable)				
5.5	the tilliller/brushcutter	trimmer	adjusting the fuel mixture (if applicable)				
		Candidate to demonstrate	To include:				
		other adjustments that can be	handle bar adjustment as necessary				
		made to the machine	moving/adjusting harness connection point				
		Candidate is required to	To include:				
		demonstrate how to adjust	length of shoulder straps				
		the harness correctly	length of side straps				
			position of chest plate				
			position of hip guard				
			correct working height and balance				
			achieved				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
Unit 201	Carry out pre-cutting tests	Candidate to carry out a pre-cutting test	To include:				
		,	remove and retain guard (brushcutter)      correct starting procedure for the machine (on the			Ш	
6.1			<ul> <li>correct starting procedure for the machine (on the ground)</li> </ul>				
			<ul> <li>start machine, check controls are fully operational</li> </ul>				
			1				
			choice state of from the state of all all all all all all all all all al				
			machine stopped using on/off switch				
			Met ✓ Not Met X	Ш	Ш		Ш

CRITERIA NUMBER	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	ASSESSOR GUIDANCE	ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES	A	AND B	IDA <sup>*</sup>	TE D
HOMBEN	Prepare the site to be cut	Candidate to state three	May include:	<b>A</b>	-		٦
Unit 201		precautions to be considered when working in areas to	authorities informed about the work prior to commencement				
6.2		which the public has pedestrian or vehicular	warning signs erected				
		access	high visibility clothing worn				
			an 'exclusion zone' could be set up				
			road or dual carriageway lane closed or coned off				
			Met ✓ Not Met X				
Unit 201	Describe the different operating techniques for	Candidate to <b>describe</b> the different techniques for	To include:  scything technique				
	grassland and scrub	grassland and scrub	<ul><li>scything technique</li><li>swatting technique (brushcutter)</li></ul>				
7.1			direction of working to avoid clogging blade/head				
	Use appropriate operating	Area to be cut	Met ✓ Not Met X  To include:	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш
Unit 201	techniques for the site	approximately 30m <sup>2</sup>	safe working distance maintained at all times				
	being cut		plan work efficiently				
7.2		Candidate to operate the brushcutter demonstrating	blade speed appropriate whist cutting				
		both the scything method	use legs and hips to work machine				
		and swatting method	cut vegetation using scything action				
			cut vegetation using swatting method				
			clear jammed blade safely (if occurs)				
		or	vegetation cleared to specification				
		Candidate to operate the	To include:				
		trimmer using the <b>scything</b>	safe working distance maintained at all times				
		method cutting around three	plan work efficiently				
		obstacles without causing damage. The obstacles can	<ul> <li>nylon cutting cord/blade speed appropriate whist</li> </ul>				
		be e.g. trees, shrubs, picnic	cutting				
		tables or fence posts	use legs and hips to work machine				
			cut vegetation using scything action				
			renew or replace nylon cord/blade as appropriate				
			clear jammed head safely (if occur)				
			damage to obstacles avoided     vegetation cleared to specification				
	Store equipment	Candidate is to state two	Met ✓ Not Met X  May include, to:	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш
Unit 201	appropriately and in	advantages of regularly	prevent corrosion				
	accordance with	cleaning the machine after	facilitate maintenance and adjustments				
8.1	manufacturer's guidelines	use	prevent personal contamination				
		On the state to th					
		Candidate to <b>state two</b> factors to consider when	May include:				
		cleaning the machine	<ul><li>using appropriate PPE</li><li>removing unwanted residues using an appropriate</li></ul>	Ш		Ш	
			method, which may include:				
			compressed air				
			hose and water				
			• brush				
			<ul> <li>waste disposed in line with company policy, environmental good practice and any legislative requirements</li> </ul>				
		Candidate to state one	May include:				
		reason for inspecting the machine after use	machine inspected to establish if there are any missing, damaged or worn components				
			ensures that defects can be rectified before machine is required again for use				
			Met ✓ Not Met X	H			
		1	MIGL F NOLIMELA	Ш	Ш		$\perp$

Summary of A	ssessment	(The Assessor	is to com	plete the	following as	appropriate)
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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	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: D	ate:						
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 (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 ob	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.  Tic							
Sig	ned:	Date:						