

**NPTC Certificates of Competence  
Chainsaws and Related Operations  
Learners' Information Sheet**



# NPTC Level 2 Certificates of Competence in Chainsaws and Related Operations

## Learners' Information Sheet

### About the Qualifications

- A range of practical assessments covering all aspects of chainsaw work. The core units (CS30.1 and 30.2) cover maintenance of the saw including recognition of safety features, chain sharpening, engine care and basic crosscutting of material. The subsequent units (CS31 - 48) build up in complexity through felling of various sizes of tree or utility poles, pruning operations from within the tree canopy, dealing with windblown trees and dismantling. The NPTC chainsaw qualifications are recognised in HSE guidance as being the appropriate qualification route for professional chainsaw users.

### Key Points

- It is suitable for candidates:-
  - who wish to develop skills in chainsaw use
  - who wish to add new skills to their portfolio
  - who wish to be identified as competent operators
  - who wish to promote a professional image

### Benefits of the Qualification

- A certificate of competence demonstrates that the successful candidate has practical skills, technical knowledge and ability which has been independently and reliably assessed.

### Assessment

The assessment requires a practical demonstration of the candidate's competence for the unit being taken. Underpinning knowledge and understanding will be assessed orally.

Candidates will be expected to provide the chainsaw and ancillary equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE). They must ensure that it complies with all legal requirements and is safe for use for each of the skills listed.

Reference should be made to appropriate HSE/ASAG guides.

Any breach of safety regulations will result in the assessment being terminated

### Units of the Qualification

#### Core units – one registration

- CS30.1 Maintain and operate the chainsaw - maintenance of the chainsaw
- CS30.2 Maintain and operate the chainsaw – on site preparation and basic crosscutting

#### Module 1 – one registration

- CS31 Fell and Process small Trees 200mm – 380mm
- CS42 Carry out stump protection
- CS43 Fell utility poles
- CS45 Arboricultural ground worker

#### Module 2 – one registration

- CS32 Fell and process medium trees 200mm – 380mm
- CS39 Use of chainsaw from rope and harness
- CS42 Carry out stump protection
- CS46 Re-pollard trees at a maximum height of 5 metres
- CS47 Use of a chainsaw from a MEWP

- CS48 Powered pole pruners

#### Module 3 – one registration

- CS33 Fell large trees – greater than 760mm
- CS34 Process individual windblown trees
- CS35 Process multiple windblown trees
- CS42 Carry out stump protection

#### Module 4 – one registration

- CS40 Carry out pruning operations
- CS41 Carry out dismantling operations
- CS44 Fell standing stems

#### CS38 Climb Trees and perform aerial rescue

Although this is a stand alone Certificate of competence it is still part of the Aerial Tree Work suite of CS qualifications being a pre-requisite to CS39.

**Copies of the schedules detailing the assessment criteria for all of the above units can be downloaded from our website at :-**

[www.nptc.org.uk/assessment-schedules](http://www.nptc.org.uk/assessment-schedules)

### What's the next step?

In the first instance you need to contact an NPTC registered Assessment Centre who offers this qualification. To find your nearest Assessment Centre, go to NPTC's website [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk) follow the link to "Assessment Centres".

The Assessment Centre will be able to advise on the training and assessment of the qualification.

We strongly advise that all candidates attend a course of instruction before the assessment to ensure that they are properly equipped with the knowledge, skills and resources for a successful assessment. Training can be provided through Lantra registered training providers/Instructors, local training groups or colleges.

Candidates will be assessed "competent" or not "yet competent".

When all of your assessments have been completed your local Assessment Centre will forward the results to NPTC so that the certificate and ID Cards can be issued, a process which normally takes about four weeks.

NPTC, Stoneleigh Park  
Warwickshire CV8 2LG  
T +44 (0)24 7685 7300  
F +44 (0)24 7669 6128  
[information@nptc.org.uk](mailto:information@nptc.org.uk)  
[www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)

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Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG Telephone 024 7685 7300 Fax 024 7669 6128 E-mail [information@nptc.org.uk](mailto:information@nptc.org.uk)  
Website [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)  
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