



ASSESSOR'S GUIDANCE CDC – Cork Debarker Certificate



Assessor's guidance

Orientation of what the candidate is expected to do, operating with the axe in a cork oak forest

CORK DEBARKER'S CERTIFICATE: 2024

Strip	Performance: <u>Obtain a sufficient number of extracted (stacked and/or loaded) cork planks/corks pieces to demonstrate the required skills.</u> Catalan axe execution		
Operation	Num	Activity	Assessment Criteria
CDC-1 Safety during maintenance and debarking	1:01 1:04	<i>Use proper personal protections during maintenance and debarking</i>	• Use appropriate personal protection during maintenance and performance • Knowledge when to make gloves, goggles, masks (always with a machine) and other PPE. • Knowledge where the collective first aid kit is located, in case of a power cut or accident during maintenance or removal.
CDC-2 Daily/occasional tool	2:01	<i>Manual Axe Sharpening</i>	• Holding the axe in the hand, leaning against the armpit for sharpening: blocking the axe when sharpening both sides. In case of another position, the candidate knows how to explain the alternative option is also safe.

maintenance			- Place the whetstone flat so as not to kill the edge. The person places and knows that the recommended angle is between 10 and 15 degrees and in the direction of the cut. - Do not leave the corners of the blade at right angles. - Check the final sharpening result and continue when nec
	2:02	Checking for the correct cut and angles	- Knowledge how to fix the axe handle in the most suitable way (e.g. with a piece of leather or clothe). - Knowledge how to identify the general condition of the trees/tree/side or face of the cork plan
CDC-3 Risk assessment, legal and environmental requirements	3:01	Risk assessment	- Knowledge of how to identify general hazards associated with the work, environment, tool/s - To be able to detect the general condition of the stand trees/tree/canopy of the corduroy
	3:02	Inspect the work area visually to avoid potential hazards	- Walk through and inspect the stand before carrying out the work - Check for or identify biotic and abiotic hazards of any kind - Explain, identify potential hazards surrounding the tree
CDC-4 Pre-Operational Checks (Splitting/auxiliary machine)	4:01	Observation of the overall condition of the tree: state of health, crown, foliage, lash and/or damage, pathologies or deformations	- Observe the general condition of the stand and the tree and know how to detect anomalies in the state of health of the tree. - Detect parts of the cork with anomalies or defects caused by previous harvesting/debarking

	4:02	<i>Manual clearing of the necessary work area around the tree, to avoid risks</i>	- Partially or entirely cut back potentially dangerous bushes, dry branches or climbing plants before carrying out pre-operational checks - Clear a safe distance around the tree to avoid bouncing or accidents - Be aware of bouncing when hitting stones, bushes, dry branches, etc. with the axe
	4:04	<i>Hold the axe correctly to avoid accidents</i>	Hold the axe firmly (straight wrist) to avoid accidents
	4:05	<i>Check if the cork is peeled properly, with as less damage as possible, and know how to interpret the visual and/or auditory signals that indicate this</i>	- Start with vertical checks and then neck checks, without making unnecessary cuts. - Seek to follow the natural fissures or cracks in the bark of the tree through the vertical cuts of the checks. - Chop in an efficient way without getting into the core layer or into the wood. - Interpret sound signals appropriately
	4:06	<i>Decide when to stop and move to the next tree</i>	- Do not make an excessive number of check cuts (>5). - Keep an accurate eye on the corner of the axe so as not to damage the parent tree during the uncorking/lifting process - Decide when to stop the checks with the axe so as not to damage the tree
CDC-5 Safe and ergonomic pull-out operation	5:01	Make a sequence of vertical cuts first and crown cuts in an orderly and efficient manner so as not to injure the tree unnecessarily and remove the cork/cork plank. Never start at the transversal cut or "neck". Same for the machine	- Make and continue the corresponding (check) cuts; vertical and longitudinal cuts in the neck without injuring the tree. - Never start at the neck - Look for the most vertical cracks to make the checks - The same if done manually as with the machine. - Knowledge of the logical order of the cuts (vertical and horizontal).
	5:02	Crown (transversal cut or "neck cut") at the right/correct height according to tree, environment, type of cork and	Knowledge the right height for each tree and type of cork (virgin cork, secondary and production). Justify If needed.

	regulations safely. Same for the machine	- Knowledge of the safety regulations regarding working at height - Hold the axe firmly and securely and make a horizontal cut with a good finish, so as not to damage subsequent slices
5:03	Leave some attached parts unremoved cork or insulated to avoid injury (e.g. squares, “shaving”, etc.) if the cork/cork plank is not removed properly	- Detect parts that are difficult to peel or anomalies and isolate them in an appropriate manner, without damaging the mother bark. - Gently chop very gently sideways with the axe until peeling, without making any wounds.
5:04	Remove the cork or piece of cork correctly and effectively	- Use the handle of the axe and/or lever to prise the cork/plank apart until it is barefoot without injuring the parent layer. On large and prominent feet, make triangles or sections so that whole pieces come out on large trees. - Extract/remove the cork/plank with the axe or lever without breaking or making small pieces unnecessarily.
5:05	Efficiently finish the foot (butt), tap with the hammer (if necessary) and/or dislocate to leave the feet free of cork remnants in the root collar, hollowing or cupping	- Avoid leaving pieces stuck to the root collar - Leave the root collar as clean as possible, and free of wounds from subsequent harvesting - Avoid unnecessary wounds or blows to the neck or legs of the tree
5:06	Select the points at which to split the cork/planks, either longitudinally or transversally on large trees, in order to optimise the resulting pieces	Select the points at which to split the corks/planks, either longitudinally or transversally in large trees, to optimise transport, making measurements according to industry.
5:07	Lay the corks/planks/pieces properly on the ground (upside down).	- Knowledge about staking the cork plans on the ground - Stack the piles in an orderly manner and gang down, in order to facilitate unpacking/transport. - Create a reasonable pile volume depending on the transport (man, tractor, truck).
5:08	Stacking or transporting parts to accumulate an adequate quantity of planks/removed parts to optimise transport	
5:09	Move between trees with the axe held correctly to avoid risks	Grab the axe with the cut facing out as you move between tree and tree
5:10	Establish effective communication between operators	Establish a code of communication with pre-agreed words and gestures to ensure smooth and effective communication

		between partners • Alerting when peeling, chopping or potentially dangerous actions are being undertaken • Coordinate appropriately and efficiently
5:11	Decide when the removal process is finished to avoid possible damage to the tree.	• Adopt an attitude of caution and in any case of doubt or visualisation of symptoms of any alteration, do not peel. • Do not proceed with peeling in the case of wounds in the parent layer. • Leave unpeeled pieces or pieces isolated with a correct finish.
5:12	Disinfect the axe and auxiliary tools between	• Disinfect tools between tree and tree in case of suspicion. • Recommended to spray tools with 80% ethanol between trees