

European Chainsaw Certificate 3:

Advanced Tree Felling Techniques (Bigger Trees)

Guidelines for Site Requirements and Equipment for Assessment Centres/ Assessors:

_(The complete assessment tasks are in the standards)

Site Requirements

- Score sheets, European Chainsaw Standards 3 (on paper or digital) and risk management forms must be available on site
- The candidate should be equipped with sufficient fuel and oil, appropriate to the make and model of the chainsaw.
- The candidate should be equipped with the correct aid tools as required for any necessary felling, winching, lifting, carrying or movement of timber.
- The candidate should be equipped with chainsaw(s) appropriate to their normal working environment in good condition with a recommended minimum guidebar length of 380mm (felling chainsaw).
- Assessors should complete a pre-use inspection of all work equipment intended to be used during the course of the assessment to ensure equipment meets the requirements of suitability in terms of size, condition, safety features etc.
- Trees should be vital and in good condition (trees must not be hazardous)
- Trees may be conifer or broadleaved
- Trees have to be in real forest situation (no simulation)
- Size: At least one tree over 380mm and at least one tree over 560mm at felling height.
- Trees need to be fair to the candidate taking the assessment. He or she should not be asked to fell obviously dangerous trees or trees with excessive undergrowth. Nevertheless, risk assessment is an important assessment task the candidate needs to conduct.
- For each candidate at least two of the following tree types must be available (one tree must be over their effective guide bar length in diameter at felling height):
 - Upright tree - minimum one.
 - Either a backward, forward or side leaning/weighted tree, minimum one.
- A winch may be used to assist the felling if felling aids not considered sufficient.

If a tree is not hung-up, a safe winch system **must be** set up and used for assisted felling of a tree to prove the candidate's skills and correct choice of components: (winch can be hand or machine operated but must be adequate for the size of tree. all components, including anchor points, must be fit for purpose and compatible with the system used.)

Checklist For Assessors' Equipment – Assessment ECC3

Minimum requirements are:

Chainsaw:

- Spare chainsaw with all Safety Features complying with current Directives, fully maintained and sharpened
(**Minimum** recommended guide-bar length: 380 mm)
- Chain protection guard
- Regulation fuel & oil can (with fuel and oil!)
- Spare chains
- Spare plug & starter cord (**Optional**)
- 2nd Chainsaw with different bar length (**Optional**)

Field Toolkit:

- All tools necessary for on-site maintenance & Sharpening of Saws.
- Security marking tape

Felling Aids:

- Alloy or Nylon wedge
- Breaking bar / Cant hook (Long Version Preferred)
- Log lifting tongs or sapi / picaroon
- Sledgehammer (or equivalent)
- 2 Large Felling Wedges
- Loggers tape (optional)

Winching Equipment:

- Mechanical winch¹ (pulling force as appropriate, recommended 1.6 tonne minimum)
- Snatch Block compatible with winch
- Compatible shackles / strops / chokers etc.

If any items of the equipment above are not available to the candidate, please contact Assessment Centre in advance of Assessment taking place

¹ Hand winches should only be used as a last resort if the terrain or other inevitable factors prevent the use of a mechanical winch.