

The aim is to check if the candidate has the knowledge and skills to undertake an ECC3 assessment on a safe way

Candidate name:



**Assessment Tasks & Criteria pre-test to ECC3**  
**No critical red mistakes and max. 5 yellow errors to succeed!**

Feedback comments made to candidate as appropriate & Result (Green or Red)

**G** **R**

**SAFETY CHECKS, BASIC FELLING & CROSS-CUTTING: RECOMMENDED GUIDE BAR SIZE 30-38cm,**  
 trees on felling height under guide bar length.

**Admission requirement: Only for experienced chainsaw operators who have been felling trees over 38cm on felling height in their regular professional everyday work**

Max. Time allowed - 1 hour

|               |  |          |          |          |
|---------------|--|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>ECS2-1</b> | Take care of yourself (PPE) and others around you at work - Candidate to wear appropriate PPE for tree felling, sign RA & show ID:                           |          | <b>G</b> | <b>R</b> |
| <b>1:01</b>   | Chainsaw safety trousers   | <b>c</b> |          |          |
| <b>1:02</b>   | Chainsaw safety boots  | <b>c</b> |          |          |
| <b>1:03</b>   | Safety helmet  | <b>c</b> |          |          |
| <b>1:04</b>   | Eye & ear protection   | <b>c</b> |          |          |
| <b>1:05</b>   | Gloves appropriate to task   |          |          |          |
| <b>1:06</b>   | Non-slag outer clothing  |          |          |          |
| <b>1:07</b>   | Personal /Squad First Aid Kit - on work site   | <b>r</b> |          |          |
| <b>1:08</b>   | Whistle/Mobile/Radio   |          |          |          |
| <b>ECS2-2</b> | Planning the work including what to do in an emergency - Candidate to identify hazards relevant to the site and trees to be worked on:                       |          | <b>G</b> | <b>R</b> |
| <b>2:01</b>   | Risk Assessment – walk site, look and discuss  | <b>r</b> |          |          |
| <b>2:02</b>   | Method statement - verbal  |          |          |          |
| <b>2:03</b>   | Emergency planning - check information   |          |          |          |
| <b>ECS2-3</b> | OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS - Candidate checks chainsaw for condition/sharpness etc and pre-use safety:  |          | <b>G</b> | <b>R</b> |
| <b>3:01</b>   | Cold/Warm start method (ground/'leg lock')   |          |          |          |
| <b>3:02</b>   | Safe start distance from fuel (min.1m or greater according to national guidance, no spillage, gases released)  |          |          |          |
| <b>3:03</b>   | Function of chain brake tested, left hand guard and throttle lock  | <b>r</b> |          |          |
| <b>3:04</b>   | Saw checked for oiling (e.g. oil throw test or oil present on drive links)   |          |          |          |
| <b>3:05</b>   | Chain not moving when throttle released (no chain creep)   |          |          |          |
| <b>3:06</b>   | On/off switch is working (pull choke to stop if not, then label not to be used)  |          |          |          |
| <b>3:07</b>   | Chain tension 'warm' re-checked  |          |          |          |
| <b>ECS2-4</b> | MEET LEGAL & SITE ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS - Candidate must check specifications:                                    |          | <b>G</b> | <b>R</b> |
| <b>4:01</b>   | Protection of fauna, flora, wildlife, waterways, site specifications etc, regards pollution/damage:  | <b>r</b> |          |          |
| <b>4:02</b>   | Use bio-oils whenever possible   |          |          |          |
| <b>4:03</b>   | Prevent waste or dispose of it without causing further damage, in accordance with the regulations, especially according to the standard for recyclable waste |          |          |          |
| <b>ECS2-5</b> | PREPARE THE TREE FOR FELLING BY SAFE BRASHING - Candidate must remove low branches considering:  |          | <b>G</b> | <b>R</b> |
| <b>5:01</b>   | Correct "break-in"   |          |          |          |
| <b>5:02</b>   | Position of the saw in relation to the operator, bar on opposite side of stem or out of line of head/neck and body   | <b>c</b> |          |          |
| <b>5:03</b>   | Saw body not above shoulder height   | <b>c</b> |          |          |
| <b>5:04</b>   | Operating technique  |          |          |          |
| <b>5:05</b>   | Brashing close to the stem   |          |          |          |

|        |   |                   |                  |   |   |
|--------|---|-------------------|------------------|---|---|
| ECS2-6 | Fell one tree in a safe and ergonomic way - Candidate to fell one backward weighted or forward weighted tree (without a winch). Randomly chosen for the candidate from pre-marked trees   |                   |                  | G | R |
|        | TREE , Description: (circle)  | Backward weighted | Forward weighted |   |   |
| 6A:1   | Trees Inspected for signs of rot or decay, loose branches & accurate evaluation of weight distribution  | r                 |                  |   |   |
| 6A:2   | Correct choice of felling direction made  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6A:3   | Escape routes selected and prepared   | r                 |                  |   |   |
|        | Candidate to cut a sink/notch to determine felling direction using:   |                   |                  | G | R |
| 6B:1   | Safe stance   |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6B:2   | Top sink cut normally between 45-60°  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6B:3   | Bottom sink cut as close to ground as practicable (unless site criteria is different)   |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6B:4   | Cuts 20-30% into stem unless tree condition dictates otherwise  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6B:5   | Sink cuts to meet accurately (not undercut). Sink facing in the chosen direction of fall  | r                 |                  |   |   |
| 6B:6   | Sink facing in the chosen direction of fall   |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6B:7   | Chain brake as appropriate  |                   |                  |   |   |
|        | Candidate to make the main felling cut/s using a safe and effective felling method (e.g. a standard cut; a 'split-level' cut; a "boring cut" technique leaving rear hold; "Danish" / 'saved corner' cut; or any other cut) appropriate to the aspect of the tree. |                   |                  | G | R |
| 6C:1   | Correct felling method chosen for the particular aspect of the tree   | r                 |                  |   |   |
| 6C:2   | Safe stance   |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6C:3   | "Ears" cut to avoid tearing, where appropriate  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6C:4   | Checks site for specific safety conditions (including third parties) before the main felling cut started & shout verbal warning: no unauthorized persons within two tree lengths or directly below on steep slopes  | c                 |                  |   |   |
| 6C:5   | Main felling cut no more than 10% of tree diameter above level of sink  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6C:6   | Felling cuts made with "pushing chain" or "pulling" chain as appropriate  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6C:7   | Safe withdrawal of the saw and chain brake used as appropriate  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6C:8   | A hinge retained appropriate to the tree diameter, aspect and condition   | c                 |                  |   |   |
| 6C:9   | Appropriate aid tools as required to fell tree  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 6C:10  | The operator fully uses a prepared escape route as soon as the tree begins to fall  | c                 |                  |   |   |
| 6C:11  | Look up and check for loose branches, tops etc.   |                   |                  |   |   |
| ECS2-7 | REMOVE BRANCHES IN A SAFE & ERGONOMIC WAY - Safe working practice will include:   |                   |                  | G | R |
| 7A:1   | Correct stance and support of the saw on tree and/or right leg  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7A:2   | Left thumb around the front handle  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7A:3   | Neither handle released while the chain is moving   |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7A:4   | Apply chain brake if reaching across bar and when negotiating obstacles   | r                 |                  |   |   |
|        | Candidate must to avoid:  |                   |                  | G | R |
| 7A:5   | Walking when saw is on same side of tree as operator  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7A:6   | Reaching too far round with saw on far side of tree   |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7A:7   | Cutting towards legs or body  | r                 |                  |   |   |
| 7A:8   | Using kick-back zone on tip of guide bar  | r                 |                  |   |   |
| 7A:9   | Overreaching with chainsaw  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7A:10  | Straddling the stem   |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7A:11  | Working on lower side of tree on side slopes  |                   |                  |   |   |
|        | Candidate to demonstrate:   |                   |                  | G | R |
| 7B:1   | Systematic sequence of cuts and position of the saw to remove branches as appropriate for the branching habit   |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7B:2   | All branches removed flush with the stem  |                   |                  |   |   |
|        | Candidate to remove the top of the tree in accordance with site specifications:   |                   |                  | G | R |
| 7C:1   | Cut top at appropriate diameter   |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7C:2   | Remove top with a safe method of cutting  |                   |                  |   |   |
| 7C:3   | Dispose of top according to Job Specification   |                   |                  |   |   |

|        |  |  |   |   |   |
|--------|--|--|---|---|---|
|        | Candidate to turn tree and remove 'under' branches:  |  |   | G | R |
| 7D:1   | The stem turned using appropriate techniques &/or aid tools  |  |   |   |   |
| 7D:2   | Using the stem for protection when removing remaining branches   |  |   |   |   |
| 7D:3   | Using a safe and effective method to sever remaining branches  |  |   |   |   |
| 7D:4   | All branches removed flush with the stem   |  |   |   |   |
| ECS1-6 | <b>Inspect timber and use safe crosscut methods</b>  |  |   | G | R |
|        | Candidate to crosscut timber under guide bar length, according to the measurements given, with some moderate tension & compression present: A <b>minimum of 10 cross cuts</b> need to be demonstrated to standard using both upper & lower side of the guide bar, including a <b>minimum of 2 vertical boring cuts</b> |  |   |   |   |
| 6:01   | Walk site, check timber  |  |   |   |   |
| 6:02   | Safe stance (well balanced)  |  |   |   |   |
| 6:03   | Bar aligned to maintain accuracy   |  |   |   |   |
| 6:04   | <b>Head/neck are not allowed across of line of chain (unless checking the line of the cuts with bar tip in full view)</b>  |  | r |   |   |
| 6:05   | Use of throttle to cut safely and efficiently  |  |   |   |   |
| 6:06   | <b>Left thumb around top handle</b>  |  | r |   |   |
| 6:07   | Use of boring to initiate cuts where access is limited   |  |   |   |   |
| 6:08   | <b>Sequence of cuts to prevent saw becoming trapped or uncontrolled timber movement i.e. splitting</b>   |  | c |   |   |
| 6:09   | Tension and compression cuts should meet   |  |   |   |   |
| 6:10   | <b>Chain brake used appropriately: when walking with the engine running, if the saw has to be put down while moving cut material or before taking a hand off the saw</b>   |  | r |   |   |
| 6:11   | Safe withdrawal of saw from cut (kerf)   |  |   |   |   |
| 6:12   | Ergonomics: straight back, use of legs to control saw, bending at knees  |  |   |   |   |
| ECS1-7 | <b>Select and use appropriate aid tools</b> - Candidate to demonstrate use of appropriate aids to handle / move products:  |  |   | G | R |
| 7:01   | Correct stance during lifting  |  |   |   |   |
| 7:02   | Avoiding excessive lifting by levering, sliding, rolling etc   |  |   |   |   |
| 7:03   | Site left tidy & safe  |  |   |   |   |

DATE & LOCATION:

ASSESSMENT Time Start:                      Time stop:                      DURATION (min):

CANDIDATE (PRINT NAME, ID NUMBER & SIGN):

OVERALL RESULT:                      **COMPETENT**                      **Not yet COMPETENT**                      nr.of WARNINGS:

Candidate comment on feedback and result:

ASSESSOR (PRINT NAME, ID NUMBER & SIGN):