

## Pre-test to ECC3

*The aim is to check if the candidate has the knowledge and skills to undertake an ECC3 assessment safely*

### To include in all translations:

**This is a translation of the original English version of the EFESC handbook and its appendices.  
This translated version is subordinate to the original English version.**

## **Pre-test to ECC3: EFESC prescriptions of tasks and criteria**

To get an extraordinary permission for an ECC3 assessment (without the normal required ECC1 and ECC2), you must pass this pre-test, in which your skills and knowledge, both theoretical and practical, are tested. With this permission you can prove your ability to work according to the European minimum Chainsaw Standards to safely participate in an ECC3 assessment.

**This pre-test does not entitle you to an ECC1 and ECC2 certificate.  
This pre-test is optional to be offered and applied by the National Agencies.**

During the pre-test to ECC3, the following minimum tasks and criteria must be checked objectively by an EFESC Certified Assessor.  
Training and assessing must be separated: the assessor may not be familiar with the candidate.

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

### Pre-test to ECC3 tasks:

**Using a battery or petrol powered chainsaw.**

**Theoretical test:**

- minimum 10 ECC1 and 10 ECC2 questions, written or oral

**Practical Test:**

- Recommended guide bar size 30-38cm. Diameter of tree at felling height must be under effective guide bar length.  
Maximum time allowed 1 hour.

- Candidate has to sign RA, show ID and wear appropriate PPE for tree felling

- Candidate has to identify hazards relevant to the site & trees to be worked on; makes a Risk Assessment (RA), work- and emergency-planning

- Candidate has to check the legal & site environmental requirements in accordance with national standards.

- Candidate has to check chainsaw for condition/sharpness etc and pre-use safety.

- Candidate has to remove low branches.

	- Candidate has to <b>fell one</b> of the following <b>tree</b> types in real forest or woodland: forward weighted or backward weighted (without a winch) (Randomly chosen for the candidate from pre-marked trees).
	- Candidate has to cut a notch to determine felling direction of forward or backward weighted tree.
	- Candidate has to make the main felling cut/s on upright, forward or backward weighted trees 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.
	- Candidate has to remove all branches in a safe & ergonomic way.
	- Candidate has to remove the top of the tree in accordance with site specifications.
	- Candidate has to turn tree and remove ‘under’ branches.
	- Candidate has 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>
	- Candidate has to demonstrate an ergonomic use of appropriate aids to handle / move timber
	- Site left safe & tidy

**Critical faults or a combination of relevant faults against the good practice of these standards will lead to not passing the assessment.  
The assessor has the right and duty to stop the assessment if direct safety is compromised.**

### Pre-test to ECC3 criteria:

**Theoretical test:**

- If multiple choice: recommended minimum score to succeed: 70% (depending on the national scoring system)

**Practical Test:**

**CRITICAL (C): IF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING critical POINTS IS NOT FULFILLED, THE CANDIDATE CAN NOT PASS this pre-test to ECC3:**

**none**

- the candidate wears appropriate PPE for tree felling
- the candidate has the right hand always on the rear handle when sawing
- the candidate has the guide bar on opposite side of stem or out of line of head/neck and body when removing low branches
- the candidate has the saw body not above shoulder height when sawing
- the candidate 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
- the candidate fully uses a prepared escape route as soon as the tree begins to fall
- the candidate retains a hinge appropriate to the tree diameter, aspect and condition

**RELEVANT (R): IF, AFTER ONE WARNING, MORE THAN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RELEVANT ERRORS ON THE TOPICS BELOW ARE MADE, THEN THE CANDIDATE CAN NOT PASS this pre-test to ECC3:**

<b>5</b>  <b>Max. number of errors allowed</b>	- the candidate makes a Risk Assessment (RA), work- and emergency planning
	- the candidate wears gloves appropriate to the task and has a personal /Squad First Aid Kit – on work site
	- the candidate checks the chainsaw for condition/sharpness etc and pre-use safety
	- the candidate <u>checks function</u> of chain brake, left hand guard and throttle lock
	- the candidate checks protection of fauna, flora, wildlife, waterways, site specifications etc, regards pollution/damage
	- the candidate inspects the trees for signs of rot or decay, loose branches & accurate evaluation of weight distribution
	- the candidate works in stable and ergonomic position
	- the candidate applies the chain brake appropriately: according to national regulations, e.g. 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 sawchain brake if reaching across bar and when negotiating obstacles
	- the candidate has the left thumb always around top handle when sawing, head/neck are not across line of chain (unless checking the line of the cuts with bar tip in full view)
	- the candidate makes a choice of felling direction, selects and prepares escape routes
	- the candidate makes the notch cuts meet accurately (not undercut). Notch facing in the chosen direction of fall
	- the candidate chooses a correct felling method appropriate to the particular aspect of the tree
	- the candidate looks up and checks for loose branches, tops etc.
	- the candidate avoids working on lower side of tree on side slopes unless tree is restrained
	- the candidate avoids cutting towards legs, body or walking with a chain in motion when saw is on same side of stem as operator
	- the candidate avoids inadvertently using the kick-back zone on tip of guide bar (N.B: Correct use of tip of saw is acceptable for boring cuts)
	- the candidate has a safe stance and is well balanced (e.g. situation with side tension)
- Sequence of cuts is made to avoid saw becoming trapped or uncontrolled timber movement i.e. splitting	