

LANTw25 - SQA Unit Code H2NK 04

Carry out assisted fell operations



Overview

This standard is about the assisted felling of trees using non-return pull lines, hand winches or mechanical winches – as appropriate to tree size and weight

This covers both coniferous and broadleaved trees, trees that are upright, trees that are weighted towards and that are weighted against a given felling direction

Ancillary equipment compatible with assisted fell systems used includes pull ropes, friction devices, cables, strops, chokers, shackles/connectors, pulley snatch blocks and other devices such as cable extension clamps

It is important to be aware of the need for clear communication between the chainsaw operator and the pull system operator when lines of sight cannot be maintained in accordance with the specific risk assessment

Your work must conform to all current legislation and codes of practice

If you are working with chemicals or machinery you need to be appropriately trained or certificated in line with current legislation

This standard is for those working with others and assisting with the felling trees

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed works
- P2 select and implement appropriate working method in accordance with the assessed risks
- P3 estimate load and select appropriate work equipment for the load
- P4 select, prepare and use tools and equipment that are appropriate for the anticipated task and suitable for the nature of the site
- P5 select a felling direction appropriate to tree form and site conditions
- P6 position pulling equipment in accordance with specific risk assessment to ensure the safety of all operators involved with the operation
- P7 select and use suitable anchor points which are adequate for anticipated load as necessary
- P8 select and install adequate attachment point(s) within the tree to be felled to give sufficient security and adequate leverage for the pulling system
- P9 establish a clear communication system between chainsaw operator and pull system operator
- P10 set up safe pull system in accordance with industry good practice
- P11 pre-tension the pull system to ensure all parts are functional
- P12 make felling cuts as appropriate to the tree and guidebar, using aid tools (wedges) as appropriate
- P13 ensure trees are in a safe and appropriate position and condition to enable subsequent operations
- P14 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times in accordance with current legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K2 how to interpret risk assessments
- K3 how to estimate the load
- K4 how to determine the appropriate pulling equipment for the assisted fell of a range of tree types/weights
- K5 the application and limitations of different types of pulling equipment
- K6 how to inspect and operate equipment and to recognise defects in any of the pull system components
- K7 the importance of clear communication during assisted felling operations and the alternatives available when a clear line of sight cannot be maintained
- K8 techniques used to safely set-up an assisted fell pulling system which is adequate for the anticipated load of the tree in question
- K9 the necessity for offset pulling when operating in confined sites or on sites with steep slopes
- K10 the need for accurate selection of felling direction and the importance of employing appropriate felling techniques/cuts
- K11 the benefit of incorporating a 'back-hold' into the felling cut for assisted fell operations
- K12 the consequences of not carrying out an assisted fell operation in an organised and appropriate manner.
- K13 how to assess the hinge holding requirements dependent on tree species
- K14 how to perform cuts to produce hinge dimensions to meet requirements dependent on tree species, condition and cut
- K15 the use of felling aids
- K16 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation

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Glossary

Clear communication system between chainsaw operator and pull system operator –the use of supplementary measures where clear visual communication cannot be maintained in accordance with specific risk assessment

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Suite Treework

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