

LANTw20 - SQA Unit Code H2R9 04

Fell trees using a chainsaw



Overview

This standard is about the directional felling of trees using a chainsaw

The felling technique will be appropriate to tree size, weight, condition and species as well as taking into account guidebar size and weather conditions

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

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 who carry out felling of trees using a chainsaw

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed works
- P2 evaluate own competence to proceed with operations and if any doubt do not proceed
- P3 discuss concerns with appropriate person as to how best the works can be completed
- P4 select and implement appropriate working method in accordance with the assessed risks
- P5 prepare site by removing obstacles in felling direction and establish escape route(s) as appropriate
- P6 set up a site for felling operations
- P7 prepare trees for felling appropriate to the tree condition and the specification for the site
- P8 prepare site to facilitate tree take-down and ensure the immediate work area at the base of the tree is clear
- P9 select recognised **felling methods** relevant to the site specification, tree size and condition, taking account of the direction to which the trees are weighted and the intended direction of fall
- P10 fell trees, using recognised felling methods and felling aids as appropriate to the tree form, condition and selected felling technique
- P11 ensure position and condition of tree is safe and suitable for subsequent operations
- P12 carry out routine operator maintenance, pre-start checks and setting of the machine for use
- P13 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times in accordance with current legislation and codes of practice
- P14 keep accurate and up-to-date records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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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 identify hazards and comply with the control procedures of risk assessments when felling trees
- K4 how to identify which trees need to be felled
- K5 the legal requirements and constraints for felling trees in different circumstances
- K6 recognised **felling methods** (suitable for trees which are standing straight, leaning against and leaning in the intended felling direction etc) including the use of boring cuts and felling aids
- K7 how to recognise signs of disease and decay in trees and modify felling methods accordingly
- K8 the advantages of setting up or using a natural felling bench, brash mat or similar support prior to felling
- K9 how and when to use **additional equipment** to assist with the felling of trees and the additional safeguards required
- K10 how to fell trees stripped of tops and/or branches and additional safeguards required
- K11 how to recognise when a tree is difficult to fell
- K12 the additional safeguards to implement when felling in proximity to paths, roads or areas with public access
- K13 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation and guidelines

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Additional Information

Scope/range

Felling methods for:

- 1 upright/balanced trees
- 2 back weighted trees
- 3 forward weighted trees
- 4 poles
- 5 difficult to fell trees (e.g. high commercial value, condition, aspect or position)
- 6 use of guide bars greater than diameter of the tree

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Scope related to knowledge and understanding

Additional equipment will include:

- 1 lifting tongs
- 2 cant hooks
- 3 turning hooks
- 4 turning straps
- 5 take-down poles
- 6 small hand winches
- 7 other appropriate methods.
- 8 winches and compatible ancillary equipment such as cable, strops, chokers, shackles and other devices may also be used for assisted felling

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Glossary

Set up site – this could include setting up a bench, brash mat or similar,

Prepare trees for felling, which could include brashing lower branches, removing climbing vegetation, buttresses and other obstructions

Potential impacts on the environment such as red squirrel drays, badger sets, bat colonies

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