

LANTw33 - SQA Unit Code H2RF 04

Install and maintain structural supports for trees



Overview

This standard is about installing and maintaining structural support systems to aid the stability of trees. Bracing or supporting means the installation in the appropriate circumstance of a flexible or rigid system into a tree to support trunks and or branches thereby reducing the risk of failure

Access to tree crowns can be either by Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) or rope and harness techniques; these are covered in this standard and appropriate training or certification in line with current legislation will be required

This standard is for those with significant knowledge and experience of treework to install support systems for trees

LANTw33 - SQA Unit Code H2RF 04

Install and maintain structural supports for trees

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 identify trees where structural support would be beneficial
- P4 select the most suitable structural support system for the situation and the well-being of the tree
- P5 calculate the expected load and select compatible components within their design/safety factors
- P6 determine the appropriate position of installation for the situation
- P7 select an appropriate access method and rescue plan for safe working at height
- P8 communicate work plan to ground crew
- P9 install selected structural support system into the tree minimising damage to the tree and the environment following current British Standard guidelines
- P10 report on structural support system used and implement an inspection regime
- P11 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times in line with current legislation

LANTw33 - SQA Unit Code H2RF 04

Install and maintain structural supports for trees

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the emergency plan and procedure how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K2 how to interpret risk assessments
- K3 how to identify when a structural support system is appropriate
- K4 the different types of structural support system and their application
- K5 how to identify the correct position for installation of a structural support system and why this is important
- K6 how to calculate load and match the materials used to the expected loads to be placed upon them
- K7 how to apply any pruning requirements to supplement the structural support system
- K8 how to identify tree species and their characteristics in relation to the selection and installation of structural support system
- K9 basic principles of tree biology and how they affect your work
- K10 how to install each structural system safely and correctly
- K11 the maintenance requirements and maintenance period of each type of structural support system
- K12 the implications and liabilities of installing a support system into a dynamic structure
- K13 the implications of relevant legislation, codes of practice and current British Safety Standards for your work
- K14 your responsibilities under current environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

LANTw33 - SQA Unit Code H2RF 04

Install and maintain structural supports for trees

Range related to knowledge and understanding

The installation of the following types of structural support systems:

- 1 rod brace – rod to stabilise a weak fork OR bridge a cavity OR stabilise two rubbing branches
- 2 invasive flexible brace – cable into the tree crown
- 3 non-invasive flexible brace incorporating belt attachments into the tree crown prop to restrain downward movement of a heavy or long branch within a few metres of the ground
- 4 propping

LANTw33 - SQA Unit Code H2RF 04

Install and maintain structural supports for trees

Developed by Lantra

Version number 1

Date approved December 2011

Indicative review date January 2016

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation Lantra

Original URN 029NTw38

Relevant occupations Arboriculture and forestry;

Suite Treework

Key words Structural; trees; support; weight; load; install