



Australian Government

AHCARB322 Access trees for inspection

Release: 1

AHCARB322 Access trees for inspection

Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Version 5.0.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to access trees for inspection. It does not describe the skills and knowledge required to access trees to conduct arboricultural work, tree pruning or removal.

The unit applies to individuals who work under broad direction and take responsibility for their own work. They use discretion and judgement in the selection, allocation and use of available resources and for solving problems.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Arboriculture (ARB)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Prepare site and inspect equipment	1.1 Confirm access to site and scope of works according to workplace procedures 1.2 Undertake a site-specific job safety analysis (JSA), record and implement control measures according to workplace safety procedures 1.3 Confirm availability of first aid and rescue personnel, equipment and procedures 1.4 Conduct pre-operational preparations and safety checks, on ropes,

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	harnesses, tools and climbing equipment 1.5 Select, check and use personal protective equipment
2. Prepare to access tree	2.1 Inspect tree to determine efficient low-risk access route and climbing method through discussion with work team 2.2 Select and prepare climbing equipment according to manufacturer instructions, workplace health and safety regulations and industry standards 2.3 Configure climbing equipment components to form functional tree climbing system appropriate to the access method selected 2.4 Tie, dress, set and finish climbing knots and hitches according to climbing system 2.5 Conduct pre-climb checks of configured systems to ensure compatibility, safety and function according to selected climbing system, industry standards and manufacturer instructions
3. Access tree safely to work position	3.1 Select and install suitable anchor points according to access method selected 3.2 Use climbing equipment to ascend tree to suitable work positions within crown using safe access route 3.3 Undertake transitions between attachment points safely to reach suitable work positions 3.4 Communicate with work team during operations according to work site and environmental conditions using methods agreed with work team 3.5 Maintain awareness and clearances to avoid power lines according to workplace safety procedures
4. Descend from tree	4.1 Descend tree using climbing equipment in a controlled manner 4.2 Remove all climbing equipment safely in a controlled manner according to manufacturer instructions 4.3 Inspect, clean, maintain and store climbing and safety equipment according to manufacturer instructions

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.

Skill	Description
Writing	Accurately record and complete workplace job safety analysis using clear language, grammar and industry terminology

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCARB322 Access trees for inspection	AHCARB312 Use standard climbing techniques to access trees	Title changed Prerequisite unit removed Performance criteria clarified Foundation skills added Assessment requirements updated	Equivalent

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCARB322 Access trees for inspection

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has used climbing techniques to access at least 2 structurally different trees, including:

- confirmed access to site and scope of works
- identified workplace health, safety and environmental hazards and completed a job safety analysis (JSA) or safe work method statement (SWMS) for the site and activities
- confirmed availability of first aid and rescue personnel, equipment and procedures
- conducted pre-operational safety checks, on ropes, harnesses, tools and equipment
- selected and used personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment during works
- inspected tree and discussed with work team to determine a safe and efficient access route
- selected and prepared climbing equipment for accessing tree
- ascended, navigated through and descended tree canopy using harness and lanyard and safe anchor points, following safe climbing techniques, including:
 - moving rope with prusik technique
 - trunk walking technique
 - use of foot ascenders
- tied, dressed, set and finished the following climbing knots and hitches, including:
 - alpine butterfly
 - blake's hitch
 - scaffold knot
 - double fisherman's bend/prusik loop
 - girth hitch
 - English prusik hitch
 - marlinspike hitch
 - munter hitch
 - clove hitch

- double-overhand stopper knot
- bowline
- running bowline
- communicated with work team during operations using agreed communication procedures
- maintained safe clearances from power lines
- removed all access equipment in a controlled manner on descend from tree
- inspected, cleaned, maintained and stored climbing and personal protective equipment according to manufacturer instructions.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- assessing and selecting different methods for climbing trees
- workplace health, safety, site, environmental and traffic control measures, including:
 - completing JSAs and SWMS for site-specific risks
 - purpose of first aid and rescue personnel, equipment and procedures
 - pre-operational and safety checks, on ropes, harnesses, tools and equipment
 - PPE used when climbing
- inspection, use and maintenance of arborist climbing equipment, including:
 - ropes and their characteristics
 - rope type, construction and materials
 - rope inspection and failure conditions
 - uses of climbing ropes
 - triple-locking carabiners
 - climbing hardware
- purpose, function, selection, tying, dressing, setting, checking and finishing of arborist knots used for climbing techniques
- safety when climbing trees, including:
 - safe working limits of ropes and equipment
 - defects in ropes, tools and equipment
 - climbing harnesses and lanyards
- hazards to avoid when climbing within the tree canopy, including:
 - safe distances from electrical power lines
 - tree structural defects
 - the presence of insects or other animals
 - deciding on low-risk access routes
- environmental impacts of tree access methods, including:
 - potential impact on tree of various climbing methods
 - impact on animal habitat or food source
- communications strategies used when climbing with a work team, including:

- voice
- hand
- electronic communications
- climbing techniques using ropes and harnesses, including:
 - moving rope with prusik technique
 - trunk walking
 - foot ascenders
 - safe transitions between points of attachment
 - low-risk anchor points
 - controlled descent operations
- controlled removal of access equipment
- procedures for inspecting, cleaning, maintaining and storing climbing equipment.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - two trees with different canopy structures as stipulated in the performance evidence
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - standard climbing kit
 - harness
 - arborist communications equipment
 - personal protective equipment
 - first aid and emergency response equipment
- specifications:
 - workplace and manufacturer instructions for safe operation, cleaning and storage of the equipment specified in the assessment conditions
- relationships:
 - work team.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. In particular, assessors must have:

- arboriculture vocational competencies at least to the level being assessed
- current arboriculture industry skills directly relevant to the unit of competency being assessed.

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