



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for FWPCOT3351 Fell trees manually (advanced)

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with FWP Forest and Wood Products Training Package Version 9.0.

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 conducted a complete hazard and risk assessment of site, surroundings, and trees, planned risk control measures, selected appropriate cutting techniques and felled a minimum of six trees with advanced characteristics following workplace policies and procedures and current workplace health and safety legislation and regulations.

The trees must be chosen according to the following criteria:

- at least one tree to be selected from:
 - tree with a lean and a weight distribution that adds significant complexity, yet can be assessed and adapted to site requirements
 - tree leaning in a direction away from the fall zone, or side-leaning towards the available fall zone
- at least one tree with a heavy forward lean
- at least one tree that can be safely felled using one of the following complex felling techniques:
 - centre scarf technique
 - executing cuts from both sides of the tree during the scarf and back cut
- at least one tree exhibiting damage, defect or complex structure that requires complex felling techniques to be selected from the following:
 - tree with visible lightning damage
 - tree that is burnt out or has a fire-damaged butt
 - trees with complex multi-stems
 - tree with multi-legged growth or large multiple leaders
 - tree with a hollow
 - tree that is stag-dead or alive but in an advanced stage of decay
 - tree with complex large low branches.

There must also be evidence that the individual has documented a risk assessment for at least one of the felled trees. This documentation must detail localised hazards and risks associated with tree felling and specify methods to minimise these risks.

In completing this work, the individual must demonstrate correct use of personal protective equipment and that, for each tree, the felling technique used was appropriate and consistent with current Australian Standards and industry codes of practice applicable to tree felling operations.

There must also be evidence that the individual has sharpened one chain, inspected and carried out routine maintenance on one chainsaw and its cutting attachments on one occasion according to manufacturer requirements.

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:

- Australian Standards and codes of practice applicable to tree felling operations
- hazards and risks related to felling trees with chainsaws, and methods to minimise associated risks, including:
 - physical conditions of the site
 - unsafe/hazardous trees
 - fire and other emergency situations
 - overhead and underground services
 - nearby structures
 - standing vegetation in the intended direction of fall
 - falling branches
 - weather conditions
 - impediments of escape routes
 - vehicle and traffic access
 - people on or near worksite
 - machinery on or near worksite
 - carrying and transporting a chainsaw
 - user fatigue
- hazards related to maintaining chainsaws, and methods to minimise associated risks
- features of unsafe/hazardous advanced trees and defects of trees and how they affect tree felling activities
- types and purposes of cuts to fell advanced trees:
 - scarf cut
 - back cut using different methods to provide hinge wood and wedges to maintain control of tree
- characteristics of advanced trees, considering features or factors that include:
 - lean and weight distribution
 - heavy forward lean

- lean direction relative to fall zone
- tree diameter
- trees that have fallen but remain caught on other trees or structures
- damage or defects to trees from lightning, fire, or other causes
- structural particularities in trees
- species prone to splitting or reacting unpredictably during felling
- physical environment, including the terrain and slope where the tree is situated
- methods used to identify advanced trees, including those:
 - that contain hazards and are deemed unsafe to fell
 - that are considered outside own skill level
 - where cuts made may lead to loss of control of tree in felling
- methods used to remove trees that are hung up, and procedures for removal
- methods for assessing chain condition
- types, safe use, operation and maintenance of chainsaws, support tools and attachments
- workplace procedures specific to felling trees with chainsaws, including:
 - health and safety, with particular emphasis on deactivating and isolating equipment, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), safe manual handling and fire prevention measures
 - communication reporting lines
 - recording and reporting repairs, maintenance activities and equipment faults
- environmental protection requirements and practices that meet legal obligations and requirements of the industry, state and local standards and/or codes of practice for felling trees with chainsaws, including:
 - protection of natural and cultural assets
 - cleaning plant, tools and equipment
 - disposing of, recycling and reusing materials
 - disposing of hazardous substances.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - skills must be demonstrated in the workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - chainsaw and accessories
 - suitable trees to fell
 - tools and equipment to fell trees
 - PPE required in tree felling operations
 - communication system

- specifications:
 - workplace health and safety and environmental protection policies and/or procedures applicable to tree felling and chainsaw operations
 - workplace standard operating procedures or operator manual for chainsaws.

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

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=0d96fe23-5747-4c01-9d6f-3509ff8d3d47>