

<b>Title</b>	<b>Prune plantation trees with a chainsaw from the ground</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>This unit standard is intended for people employed in a pruning role in a forestry operation.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to: prepare equipment for pruning trees with a chainsaw from the ground; prepare for chainsaw pruning from the ground; prune trees to job prescription requirements with a chainsaw from the ground; and demonstrate knowledge of and assess pruning quality.</p>
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<b>Classification</b>	Forestry > Forest Silvicultural Operations
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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<b>Prerequisites</b>	Unit 23411, <i>Operate a chainsaw and carry out basic chainsaw maintenance in a commercial forestry situation</i> , or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
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## Guidance Information

- 1 This unit standard must be assessed against on-job.
- 2 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes the Health and Safety at Work (HSW) Act 2015; the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Amendment Regulations 2018; and any subsequent amendments.
- 3 References  
*Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) for Safety and Health in Forestry Operations*, December 2012, available from <https://worksafe.govt.nz/>.  
 New Zealand Forest Owners Association, *Forest Practice Guides* (2019), and any subsequent amendments, available from <https://www.nzfoa.org.nz>.
- 4 Definitions  
*Accepted industry practice* – approved codes of practice and standardised procedures accepted by the wider forestry industry as examples of best practice.  
*Job prescription* refers to any written instructions for the operation and may include maps, harvest plans or cut plans.  
*PPE* – personal protective equipment as required for the task in accordance with accepted industry practice and worksite procedures. This may include but is not limited to high-visibility clothing, protective clothing, gloves, face and eye protection, safety helmet, approved footwear, chaps, hearing protection, and safety devices.

*Worksite procedures* refer to documented procedures used by the organisation carrying out the work and applicable to the tasks being carried out. They may include but are not limited to – standard operating procedures, site safety procedures, equipment operating procedures, quality assurance procedures, housekeeping standards, procedures to comply with legislative and local body requirements.

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## Outcomes and performance criteria

### Outcome 1

Prepare equipment for pruning trees with a chainsaw from the ground.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Chainsaw type, cc rating, and bar length meet operational requirements in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 1.2 Approved cutter bar guard is secured and checked for safety in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 1.3 Chainsaw maintenance tools are checked, and available during operation in accordance with accepted industry practice.  
  
Range            may include but is not limited to – files, file guide, file handle, tool kit, combination spanner.
- 1.4 Fuel and oil containers used are in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 1.5 The requirement for checking the chain brake is explained in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 1.6 Chainsaw safety features are checked in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 1.7 First aid equipment is checked, and availability confirmed in accordance with accepted industry practice.

### Outcome 2

Prepare for chainsaw pruning from the ground.

#### Performance criteria

- 2.1 PPE and safety equipment is maintained and worn in accordance with accepted industry practice and worksite procedures.  
  
Range            includes but is not limited to – leg, head, foot, hearing and eye protection; high visibility clothing, first aid kit;  
                     may include – fire extinguisher.

- 2.2 The risks specific to chainsaw pruning from the ground are assessed and controlled in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 2.3 Key features of the block and boundaries are identified physically on site and on the map in accordance with the job prescription.
- Range may include but is not limited to – distance, block boundaries, access points, exit points, gullies, streams, roads, environmentally or culturally sensitive sites, emergency evacuation point; evidence of six is required.
- 2.4 The reason for on-going risk management is explained in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 2.5 Factors that may alter risks or introduce new risks are described in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- Range evidence of three factors is required.
- 2.6 The emergency response procedures are identified and described in accordance with worksite procedures.

### Outcome 3

Prune trees to job prescription requirements with a chainsaw from the ground.

#### Performance criteria

- 3.1 Job prescription is used to establish quality and specific job requirements.
- Range stems per hectare (SPH), pruned height, spacing, selection criteria.
- 3.2 Trees for pruning are selected in accordance with the job prescription and to complement the tree selection of other workers in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 3.3 Chainsaw is started using cold and warm starting methods on the ground in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 3.4 Work practice is safe in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- Range includes but is not limited to – minimal overreaching, no use of kick back zone.
- 3.5 Trees are pruned in accordance with the job prescription.
- 3.6 Work method and work pattern suit the needs of the particular operation in accordance with accepted industry practice, and meet job prescription requirements.

- 3.7 Branches and epicormics are removed flush from the branch collar and stem with minimal damage to stems and no defects in accordance with the job prescription.
- 3.8 Heavy branches are double cut for personal safety in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 3.9 Correct technique for cutting large branches with one hand is demonstrated in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 3.10 Correct technique for carrying the saw when moving between trees is demonstrated according to worksite procedures and accepted industry practice.
- 3.11 Communication with other crew members ensures pruning requirements are met.

#### **Outcome 4**

Demonstrate knowledge of, and assess, pruning quality.

#### **Performance criteria**

- 4.1 Processes for maintaining standards of quality within a pruning operation are described in accordance with worksite procedures and accepted industry practice.
- Range may include but is not limited to – plotting, supervision, audits, safe behaviour observations, self-checks, training; evidence of two is required.
- 4.2 The importance of regular quality control procedures within a pruning operation is explained in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 4.3 Effects of pruning too many or too few stems are described in accordance with worksite procedures.
- Range may include but is not limited to – operational costs, job efficiency, influence on future operations, decrease in prune crop volume and value, reworks; evidence of four is required.
- 4.4 Effects of incorrect heights (over-prune, under-prune) are explained in accordance with worksite procedures.
- Range growth, tree death, production rate, tree stress, payment, reworks.
- 4.5 Own pruning work is assessed for quality as work progresses to ensure output meets predetermined production and quality requirements.
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<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2024
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**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	8 November 1996	31 December 2012
Revision	2	19 June 1998	31 December 2012
Review	3	5 December 2000	31 December 2012
Review	4	22 May 2008	31 December 2012
Revision	5	16 July 2010	31 December 2013
Revision	6	15 September 2011	31 December 2016
Review	7	19 March 2015	N/A
Review	8	23 April 2020	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	0173
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact Competenz [qualifications@competenz.org.nz](mailto:qualifications@competenz.org.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.