

Title	Prune plantation trees from the ground		
Level	3	Credits	10

Purpose	<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: maintain equipment used for pruning plantation trees from the ground; prepare for pruning plantation trees from the ground; prune plantation trees to job prescription requirements from the ground; and demonstrate knowledge of, and assess, pruning quality.</p>
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Classification	Forestry > Forest Silvicultural Operations
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 This unit standard must be assessed against on-job and may be achieved in a variable height first lift pruning operation.
- 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.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Maintain equipment used for pruning plantation trees from the ground.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Items of equipment are maintained in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- Range may include – pruners or loppers, jacksaw, pouch, steps, gauge, epicormic remover, hand saws.
- 1.2 Spare parts and maintenance tools are checked and made available to enable equipment maintenance.
- Range may include but is not limited to – bolts, nuts, cutting blades, saw blades, spanners, screwdriver, sharpening files or stones; evidence of six is required.
- 1.3 First aid equipment is checked, and its availability is confirmed in accordance with accepted industry practice.

Outcome 2

Prepare for pruning plantation trees from the ground.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 PPE is maintained and worn in accordance with accepted industry practice and worksite procedures.
- 2.2 The risks specific to pruning plantation trees 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 plantation trees to job prescription requirements 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 Trees are pruned in accordance with the job prescription, worksite procedures, and accepted industry practices.

- 3.4 Work method and work pattern are executed to meet the needs of the particular operation in accordance with accepted industry practice and the job prescription.

- 3.5 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.

- 3.6 Communication is maintained with other crew members in accordance with worksite procedures to ensure 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 accepted industry practice.
- 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 accepted industry practice.
- Range growth, tree death, production rate, tree stress, payment, reworks, infection risk.
- 4.5 Own pruning work is assessed for quality as work progresses to ensure output meets predetermined production and quality requirements.

Planned review date	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	28 January 1995	31 December 2012
Review	2	8 November 1996	31 December 2012
Revision	3	19 June 1998	31 December 2012
Review	4	5 December 2000	31 December 2012
Review	5	22 May 2008	31 December 2012
Revision	6	16 July 2010	31 December 2013
Revision	7	15 September 2011	31 December 2016
Review	8	19 March 2015	N/A
Review	9	23 April 2020	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	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 if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.