

Title	Thin plantation trees for extraction		
Level	3	Credits	10

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of health and safety requirements for thinning plantation trees for extraction; prepare to thin plantation trees for extraction; and thin plantation trees for extraction.
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Classification	Forestry > Tree Felling
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Available grade	Achieved
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Prerequisites	Unit standard 17763: <i>Demonstrate knowledge of tree felling</i> ; and unit standard 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 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.
- 2 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>.
- 3 Sufficient trees must be thinned to demonstrate consistent, methodical, efficient, and safe thinning.
- 4 Definitions
Accepted industry practice refers to 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.

Worksite procedures refers 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.

5 Assessment information

This unit standard must be assessed on-job.

All activities and evidence must meet worksite procedures and accepted industry practice.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of health and safety requirements for thinning plantation trees for extraction.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The hazards and associated risks specific to production thinning are identified and a control measure for each is explained.

Range may include but is not limited to – working in close proximity to other fallers, extraction machine, trimming, removing bottom branches, hang-ups, falling debris.

- 1.2 Factors that may change hazards or introduce new hazards or risks are described.

Range weather, terrain, hindrance.

- 1.3 The reason for on-going hazard and risk identification is explained.

- 1.4 A chainsaw and equipment suitable for thinning large plantation trees are maintained and in a safe and serviceable condition.

Range chainsaw, felling aids, protective clothing, road signs, fuel and oil containers, first aid equipment.

Outcome 2

Prepare to thin plantation trees for extraction.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Components of the job prescription that are specific to the production thinning operations are explained.

Range residual stocking, selection of cull trees, quality requirements, safety requirements, hazards, environmental requirements.

- 2.2 The impact of the felling pattern on the extraction process is explained.

Outcome 3

Thin plantation trees for extraction.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 The area within two tree lengths of the tree to be felled is assessed for hazards and controls for each risk are determined.

- 3.2 Tree to be felled is assessed for hazards.

Range may include – overhead hazards, vines, interlocked branches, tree lean, weight distribution, size, condition and stability of tree to be felled, wind strength and direction.

- 3.3 Felling direction is determined and tree is prepared for felling.

Range low branches are removed, work area is cleared, escape route is prepared.

- 3.4 Trees are directionally felled to avoid hazards and obstacles which may cause stem breakage, to avoid damage to crop trees, and to facilitate extraction.

- 3.5 Cull trees hung-up in crop trees are brought down.

Range may include – posting, brushing, tree driving, machine assisted.

- 3.6 Felling aids are used to assist felling as required for individual trees.

Range wedges and suitable driving tool.

- 3.7 The use of a wedge to fell trees against the lean is demonstrated.

- 3.8 Technique for felling trees with side lean is demonstrated.

- 3.9 Alternative back-cut techniques are demonstrated.

Range quarter cut, split level, bore and release.

Planned review date	31 December 2028
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	18 September 2009	31 December 2012
Revision	2	16 July 2010	31 December 2012
Revision	3	15 September 2011	31 December 2016
Review	4	19 March 2015	31 December 2017
Review	5	10 December 2015	N/A
Review	6	25 June 2020	N/A
Rollover	7	26 April 2024	N/A
Revision	8	29 May 2025	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 Muka Tangata - People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council qualifications@mukatangata.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.