

Title	Prune plantation trees with a chainsaw from off 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: prepare equipment for pruning trees with a chainsaw from off the ground; prepare for chainsaw pruning from off the ground; start a chainsaw on the ground and from a ladder; prune trees to job prescription requirements with a chainsaw from off 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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Prerequisites	Unit 6973, <i>Prune plantation trees with a chainsaw from the ground</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.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Prepare equipment for pruning trees with a chainsaw from off 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 System to attach chainsaw to operator's waist belt while ascending and descending the ladder meets requirements of accepted industry practice.
- 1.4 Chainsaw maintenance tools are checked and available during operation in accordance with accepted industry practice.

Range may include but not limited to – files, file guide, file handle, tool kit, combination spanner.
- 1.5 Fuel and oil containers used are in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 1.6 The requirement for checking the chain brake is explained in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 1.7 Chainsaw safety features are checked in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 1.8 Ladders used meet requirements of accepted industry practice.
- 1.9 Ladders are checked daily and maintained in accordance with accepted industry practice.

Range rungs and stiles, feet, chain and attachments, top working platform.
- 1.10 Ladder length meets pruned height requirements of the job prescription.

- 1.11 First aid requirements are checked and available in accordance with the requirements of accepted industry practice.

Outcome 2

Prepare for chainsaw pruning from off the ground.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 PPE and safety equipment are 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 off 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.
- 2.7 Requirements for safety belts and harnesses are stated in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- Range belt and harness condition, adjustment on user, lanyard adjustment, chainsaw securing hook, specification, maintenance.
- 2.8 Correct fitting and use of a harness or fall restraint for fall prevention is demonstrated in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 2.9 Communication between crew members is established prior to work being started in accordance with worksite procedures.

Outcome 3

Start a chainsaw on the ground and from a ladder.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Chainsaw is started using cold and warm starting methods on the ground in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 3.2 Warm starts are made from a ladder in accordance with accepted industry practice.

Outcome 4

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

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Job prescription is used to establish quality and specific job requirements.
- Range stems per hectare (SPH), pruned height, spacing, selection criteria.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Trees are pruned in accordance with the job prescription.
- 4.5 Work method and work pattern suit the needs of the particular operation in accordance with accepted industry practice, and the job prescription.
- 4.6 Ladder handling, placement, and use are in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- Range carriage, stability, distance from base of tree, uphill placement where possible.
- 4.7 Branches hindering access and vision are cut first and difficult branches left until last where practicable.
- 4.8 Branches and epicormics are removed flush with the branch collar and stem with minimal damage to stems and no defects in accordance with the job prescription.
- 4.9 Heavy branches are double cut for personal safety in accordance with accepted industry practice.

- 4.10 Branches under tension are identified and removed safely in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 4.11 Correct technique for cutting steep angled branches is demonstrated in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 4.12 Correct technique for cutting large branches with one hand is demonstrated in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 4.13 Chainsaw is attached to chainsaw securing hook, with chainsaw switched off or brake engaged, during ladder descent.
- 4.14 Correct technique for two-handed pruning using a fastened lanyard when off the ground is demonstrated in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 4.15 Correct technique for carrying the saw when moving between trees is demonstrated according to worksite procedures and accepted industry practice.
- 4.16 Safety belts or harnesses are used where required in accordance with accepted industry practice.
- 4.17 Communication with other crew members ensures pruning requirements are met.

Outcome 5

Demonstrate knowledge of, and assess, pruning quality.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The importance of regular quality control procedures within a pruning operation is explained in accordance with worksite procedures.
- 5.3 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.

- 5.4 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.

- 5.5 Own pruning work is assessed for quality as work progresses to ensure output meets predetermined production and quality requirements.

Planned review date	31 December 2028
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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
Rollover	9	26 April 2024	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.