

Specification of Competency Standards
for the Arboriculture & Horticulture Industry
Unit of Competency

Functional Area - Occupational Safety and Health for the Arboriculture and Horticulture Industry

Title	Operate chainsaws on trees
Code	109055L3
Range	This unit of competency is applicable to frontline staff who are engaged in the operation of chainsaws on trees in the arboriculture and horticulture industry. Practitioners should master the skills of operating chainsaws on trees, and the inspection and maintenance procedures of chainsaws. Coupled with suitable tree climbing skills and equipment, they should also be able to use chainsaws properly to perform relevant duties on tree trunks or branches.
Level	3
Credit	3 (For Reference Only)
Competency	<p>Performance Requirements</p> <p>1. Possess knowledge related to operating chainsaws on trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehend the techniques, procedures and safety rules for using chainsaws on trees • Comprehend the working principles, assembly and disassembly methods, inspection procedures and maintenance methods of chainsaws • Comprehend the mechanical structure and safety devices of chainsaws • Comprehend the methods and techniques for starting and stopping chainsaws on tree trunks or branches • Comprehend the techniques of operating chainsaws on tree trunks or branches and the potential hazards to the operators • Comprehend the rebound force at the pressure points and tension points of a saw blade • Comprehend the types of personal protective equipment for operating chainsaws on trees, their protection principles and donning methods • Comprehend the methods and techniques for maintaining chainsaws • Comprehend techniques related to tree climbing and application of rigging systems <p>2. Operate chainsaws on trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose the right chainsaws for working on trees according to the job requirements • Use suitable personal protective equipment and check it before donning • Inspect every part and safety device of the chainsaw to ensure that the chainsaw is functioning normally before climbing up a tree • Mix fuel suitable for the chainsaws according to manufacturers' instructions • Set up fuel refilling areas to carry out the procedures of refuelling and application of lubricating oil • Set up work areas and safety areas for operating chainsaws on trees • Establish an effective communication system with ground support staff to ensure that messages can be delivered accurately • Use rigging systems to transfer chainsaws safely • Look for suitable positions on tree trunks or branches for standing firmly to start and stop chainsaws in a safe way • Coupled with tree climbing techniques, cut trees on tree branches by holding the chainsaw with a correct posture and applying proper operation techniques • Perform cleaning and maintenance procedures, and contact suppliers to replace worn parts when necessary
Assessment Criteria	The integrated outcome requirements of this unit of competency are:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Able to apply suitable tree climbing techniques and equipment to stand on tree trunks or branches, so as to operate, start and stop chainsaws safely for carrying out relevant work;• Able to use rigging systems to transfer chainsaws to and from the ground safely to facilitate the work on trees;• Able to inspect the mechanical parts and safety devices of chainsaws to ensure that the chainsaws are functioning normally before starting them; and• Able to establish an effective communication system with ground support staff to ensure that messages can be delivered accurately.
Remark	