Level 2 Certificate of Competence in Tree Climbing and Aerial Rescue (0039-22)

April 2021 Version 1.0

Assessment Pack –Centre Version

Version and date	Change detail	Section
1.0	First version	

Contents

Introduction

This assessment relates to the units in the Qualification handbook. The assessment(s) can be achieved at pass only. If any task is not yet met the candidate is unsuccessful.

This assessment is for unit 203 Tree climbing and aerial rescue covering the following learning outcomes:

1. Climb trees
2. Carry out aerial rescue

General guidance on the requirements for assessment can be found in the Assessor Guidance document available on the City & Guilds web site **www.cityandguilds.com**.

The assessor should complete an individual Feedback form and Practical assessment mark sheet for each candidate which should be given to the candidate following the assessment.

ARAS Forms

An Assessment Result Advice Slip (ARAS form) should be completed by the assessor following an assessment. The ARAS is not a certificate but, based on the evidence of the candidate's performance, is a recommendation to City & Guilds that the candidate is either competent or not yet competent in the unit.

Assessment Time
The expected assessment time for this qualification is 3 – 4 hours.

Site/workshop requirements:
Medium sized open grown tree with suitable crown
Featureless stem/pole with minimum height 6m

Equipment/Machinery:
LOLER compliant climbing equipment with documented evidence, for the Candidate and the Assessor
Rescue dummy (meeting standard setting requirements) when required
First aid kit

Consumables:
None

This is not an open book assessment, however additional technical information may be sought from the relevant manufactures operator manuals or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Practical observation descriptor table

203 Tree climbing and aerial rescue

Activity number and description from check list		Assessment criteria
Climbing		
1.	Explain the risk assessment process	The risk assessment process may contain the following five steps: • identify the hazards • decide who might be harmed and how • evaluate the risks and decide on precautions • record the findings and implement them • review and update the assessment as necessary
2.	Identify the hazards, risks and controls associated with the site, task	Identify hazards, risks and controls relevant to the site task.
3.	Outline emergency planning relevant to the working area	Emergency planning relevant to a work site may include: • site location • grid reference • what three words • designated meeting place • nearest access point • street name/district • type of access (public road/light vehicles, four-wheel drive) • suitable helicopter landing area • phone number of nearest doctors • location of nearest accident and emergency hospital and phone number • works manager contact details • your own contact number/mobile number • other
4.	Outline responsibilities as an operator under the following	Outline key points from the legislation listed below: Health and Safety at Work Act (HASWA): • follow training received • take reasonable care of their own and other people's safety • other Operators responsibility under LOLER regulations may include: • equipment should be subject to a pre use check by the climber • a recorded interim inspection should be kept for equipment subject to high levels of wear Operators responsibility under the PPE regulations may include: • carry out equipment maintenance as per manufactures guidance • correct storage of PPE

5.	State key point from the work at height regulations	Key point from the work at height regulation is: • Understand the methods to be used for working at height
6.	State industry guide relevant to tree climbing and aerial rescue	Industry guides relevant to Tree climbing and aerial rescue: • Arboricultural Association AA technical guide 1 Tree climbing and aerial rescue
7.	State personal fall protection performance criteria to consider when tree climbing in accordance with AA guide TG1	Personal fall protection performance criteria include: • the system comprises of a primary system and a backup • should be attached to independent anchors where possible • if there is no suitable independent anchor it should be installed over a shared anchor
8.	State working considerations in relation to tree climbing	Working considerations in relation to tree climbing may include: • the climbing ropes must be kept as taut as possible and any slack must not exceed 500mm • rope or cord used for friction hitches must be of a suitable type • no potential fall distance exceeds 500mm • karabiners must have a spring-loaded, self-locking gate that requires at least three distinct movements to open it
9.	~~Outline~~ State the basic legal and environmental factors and how they impact on the work	Legal and environmental considerations could include: • landowners permission • Tree preservation order • nesting birds • bat roosts • presence of other valuable flora and fauna • other Potential impacts: • stops work from taking place • delays work from taking place • restricts work • other
10.	Describe the potential environmental damage that could occur and how to respond appropriately	Potential environmental damage may include: • damage to retained trees • wildlife disturbance • other Appropriate responses may include: • work sequence chosen to minimise subsequent damage to retained trees • wildlife assessments completed prior to work • other

11.	Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree and work at height assessment prior to commencing the work	Potential hazards that may be encountered may include: • evidence of cavities, decay or decay fungi • deadwood and broken branches • dead or flaking bark • v shaped unions • cracks • nesting insects • the presence of power lines or telephone wires • targets and obstacles underneath the tree • other
12.	Discuss a working at height assessment	Working at height assessment may include: • can the work be carried out from ground level • the use of a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) to prevent a fall • The use of suitable equipment minimises the distance and consequence of a fall
13.	Explain how the species, condition of trees and time of year affect the work	Species, condition of tree and time of year may affect tree climbing owing to: • brittle timber characteristics leading to weaker anchor points • dead, diseased, or dying trees may prevent tree climbing taking place • trees in leaf may reduce visibility and effective communication • winter months may present problems such as windy conditions, wet or icy branches, extremities of cold • summer months may present problems such as pollens, dusts, irritants • other
14.	Describe how to ensure that access equipment and systems are in safe working order	To ensure access, tree climbing equipment and systems are safe to use operators must ensure: • pre-use check of equipment/system undertaken • on-going equipment/system checks during climbing • ongoing maintenance • other
15.	Inspect all access/tree climbing equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation	Candidate to inspect **all** equipment to be used and comment on the condition
16.	State why it is important to read and understand manufactures information	The importance of reading and understanding manufactures information is: • correct equipment application • how to correctly configure equipment • compatibility of equipment with other components • maintenance requirements • inspection
17.	State different methods used to safely access a tree	Different methods that may be used to access a tree can include:

		• moving rope technique • stationary rope technique • ladders • spikes/climbing irons • Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) • other
18.	State the difference between a personal fall protection anchor and a positioning anchor	The difference between a personal fall protection anchor and a positioning anchor may be: Personal fall protection anchor: • An unquestionably reliable anchor point that supports the full potential load of a climber and equipment Positioning anchor: • An anchor that is used to aid the climber with positioning and prevent a pendulum swing
19.	Select access and tree climbing equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	Candidate to select compliant PPE and safety clothing for tree climbing to include: • tree climbing helmet • personal first aid kit/whistle • knife with retractable blade or handsaw • foot protection with good grip and ankle support • non- snag clothing • eye protection Candidate to select appropriate compliant climbing equipment for tree climbing to include: • harness • ropes/ lanyards of suitable diameter, length and strength for the climbing lines and for the friction hitches • minimum of triple action auto-locking karabiners for main attachments
20.	Tie and set a three-knot climbing system	Candidate to demonstrate the ability to tie a three-knot system

21.	Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree	All anchor points selected taking into consideration: • size, strength and structure • position in relation to the parts of the tree to be accessed • use of equipment to minimise damage to the tree if appropriate Candidate establishes their initial anchor points taking into account: • suitability of the techniques used • accurate installation of equipment • organisation of ropes • safety and position of the anchor points • testing of the anchor points by thorough loading prior to ascent Technique used takes into account: • efficient use of technique chosen • candidate is attached to the tree at all times in accordance with industry good practice • appropriate selection of anchor points • appropriate route taken up the tree • correct use of systems when changing anchor points • thorough load testing of new anchor points • risk of a fall is managed at all times • correct use of equipment
22.	Use appropriate positioning techniques within the crown	Candidate to access two points within the crown taking into account: • appropriate route • slack within systems is no more than 500mm • ropes should be kept in as straight a line as possible to the anchor points • balance and control maintained • efficient rope organisation • controlled movement back into the stem
23.	Descend tree in a controlled manner and remove equipment appropriately	Descent from trees takes account of: • rope length • speed of descent • not colliding with obstructions • safe landing • controlled removal of equipment
24.	Describe when aerial rescue by climbing would not be appropriate	Aerial rescue by climbing may not be appropriate owing to: • dangerous tree structure • additional site hazards such as power-lines present • when additional risk to casualty/rescuer would be incurred • other
25.	Explain the key elements of a rescue plan prior to starting work	Key elements of a rescue plan prior to starting work may include: • completing the emergency procedures as part of a site risk assessment

		• making sure all equipment required for rescue is available • identifying a competent and designated rescuer • installation of a rescue line • first aid equipment is available • other
26.	Prepare a rescue plan	Preparing a rescue plan may include: • emergency procedures as part of the site-specific risk assessment have been comprehensively and accurately completed • equipment required and competent individuals are available • competent and designated aerial rescuer and or emergency co-ordinator have been identified and nominated in that role • first aid equipment is available including tourniquet and haemostatic gauze/cloth • access route into the tree has been determined • method of access has been agreed upon • anchor points have been identified and where practicable pre-installed
27.	Describe different rescue methods	Different rescue methods may include: • two-person rescue (pole) • three-person rescue (belay) • Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWP) • SRT • other
28.	Implement the rescue plan	Candidate to undertake crown rescue using a suitable technique. Rescue technique is observed taking into account: • tree accessed and suitable anchor points attained • rescuer reaches the casualty • area around casualty is made safe • rescuer attaches the casualty to the rescuers harness with a direct attachment and attaches a chest strop if required • rescuer reassures the casualty at all times • rescue is conducted with the use of two independent load bearing systems • controlled descent • casualty is guided past branches if applicable • correct use of equipment • efficiency of the rescue
29.	Carry out a pole rescue	Candidate to undertake a rescue from a 'pole' (standing stem) using climbing irons The rescue method is observed taking into account: • pole accessed and suitable false anchor point installed

		• rescuer secures the casualty to the rescue system • rescuer attaches the casualty to the rescuers harness with a direct attachment, if required • rescuer reassures the casualty at all times • rescuer makes use of help from the casualty where appropriate • rescuer detaches the casualty from the pole, if applicable • in the event of a belay rescue, casualty descent is controlled by ground person under the direction of the rescuer using an appropriate fail - safe method • controlled descent • correct use of equipment • efficiency of the rescue
30.	Explain how to report the incident in line with organisational requirements	Reporting of the incident in line with an organisation's requirements may include: • report to supervisor • record incident details as appropriate • when applicable report to HSE via RIDDOR
31.	Explain the importance of inspecting equipment following aerial rescue	Importance of inspecting equipment may include: • to establish if it contributed to the accident • ensuring it is still safe to operate • check for contamination • quarantine equipment • other
32.	Communicate appropriately with ground staff	Communication between climber and ground staff maintained when appropriate.
33.	Used appropriate equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	All tools, equipment and personal protective equipment is used in line with industry good practice
34.	Carried out work to minimise environmental damage	It is ensured that any possible environmental damage is minimised at all times.
35.	Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice	All activities must be completed in a way which protects the operator and those around them

Appendix 1 Practical tables

Note these do not have to be completed if using pre-populated forms.

203 Tree climbing and aerial rescue

Candidate name:
Date:
Start time:
Finish time:

Candidates are **not** permitted to use the checklist to work from when completing the practical tasks, but may familiarise themselves with it prior to the observation.

All criteria must be achieved.

Activity number and description	Achieved
Climbing	
1. Explain the risk assessment process	
2. Identify the hazards, risks and controls associated with the site, task	
3. Outline emergency planning relevant to the working area	
4. Outline responsibilities as an operator under the following	
5. State key point from the work at height regulations	
6. State industry guide relevant to tree climbing and aerial rescue	
7. State personal fall protection performance criteria to consider when tree climbing in accordance with AA guide TG1	
8. State working considerations in relation to tree climbing	
9. State the basic legal and environmental factors and how they impact on the work	
10. Describe the potential environmental damage that could occur and how to respond appropriately	
11. Perform a tree condition assessment of the tree and work at height assessment prior to commencing the work	
12. Discuss a working at height assessment	
13. Explain how the species, condition of trees and time of year affect the work	
14. Describe how to ensure that access equipment and systems are in safe working order	
15. Inspect all access/tree climbing equipment to ensure it is safe and fit for use under manufacturer's instructions and relevant legislation	
16. State why it is important to read and understand manufactures information	
17. State different methods used to safely access a tree	
18. State the difference between a personal fall protection anchor and a positioning anchor	
19. Select access and tree climbing equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	
20. Tie and set a three-knot climbing system	
21. Use access and positioning methods appropriate to the tree	
22. Use appropriate positioning techniques within the crown	
23. Descend tree in a controlled manner and remove equipment appropriately	
Aerial rescue	
24. Describe when aerial rescue by climbing would not be appropriate	
25. Explain the key elements of a rescue plan prior to starting work	
26. Prepare a rescue plan	
27. Describe different rescue methods	
28. Implement the rescue plan	
29. Carry out a pole rescue	
30. Explain how to report the incident in line with organisational requirements	
31. Explain the importance of inspecting equipment following aerial rescue	
32. Communicate appropriately with ground staff	
33. Used appropriate equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	
34. Carried out work to minimise environmental damage	

35. Worked in a way which maintains health and safety and is consistent with relevant legislation and industry good practice	

Candidate signature and date	
Assessor signature and date	

Assessor feedback:

Appendix 2 Sources of general information

The following documents contain essential information for centres delivering City & Guilds qualifications. They should be referred to in conjunction with this handbook. To download the documents and to find other useful documents, go to the **Centres and Training Providers homepage** on **www.cityandguilds.com**.

City & Guilds Centre Manual

This document provides guidance for organisations wishing to become City & Guilds approved centres, as well as information for approved centres delivering City & Guilds qualifications. It covers the centre and qualification approval process as well as providing guidance on delivery, assessment and quality assurance for approved centres.

It also details the City & Guilds requirements for ongoing centre and qualification approval, and provides examples of best practice for centres. Specifically, the document includes sections on:

- the centre and qualification approval process
- assessment, internal quality assurance and examination roles at the centre
- registration and certification of candidates
- non-compliance and malpractice
- complaints and appeals
- equal opportunities
- data protection
- management systems
- maintaining records
- internal quality assurance
- external quality assurance.

Our Quality Assurance Requirements

This document explains the requirements for the delivery, assessment and awarding of our qualifications. All centres working with City & Guilds must adopt and implement these requirements across all of their qualification provision. Specifically, this document:

- specifies the quality assurance and control requirements that apply to all centres
- sets out the basis for securing high standards, for all our qualifications and/or assessments
- details the impact on centres of non-compliance

Our Quality Assurance Requirements document encompasses the relevant regulatory requirements of the following documents, which apply to all UK centres working with City & Guilds:

- Ofqual's General Conditions of Recognition

The **centre homepage** section of the City & Guilds website also contains useful information on

- **Walled Garden**: how to register and certificate candidates on line
- **Events**: dates and information on the latest Centre events
- **Online assessment**: how to register for e-assessments.

Useful contacts

UK learners General qualification information	**E: learnersupport@cityandguilds.com**
International learners General qualification information	**E: intcg@cityandguilds.com**
Centres Exam entries, Certificates, Registrations/enrolment, Invoices, Missing or late exam materials, Nominal roll reports, Results	**E: information@cityandguilds.com**
Single subject qualifications Exam entries, Results, Certification, Missing or late exam materials, Incorrect exam papers, Forms request (BB, results entry), Exam date and time change	**E: singlesubjects@cityandguilds.com**
International awards Results, Entries, Enrolments, Invoices, Missing or late exam materials, Nominal roll reports	**E: intops@cityandguilds.com**
Walled Garden Re-issue of password or username, Technical problems, Entries, Results, e-assessment, Navigation, User/menu option, Problems	**E: walledgarden@cityandguilds.com**
Employer Employer solutions, Mapping, Accreditation, Development Skills, Consultancy	T: +44 (0)121 503 8993 **E: business@cityandguilds.com**

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As the UK's leading vocational education organisation, City & Guilds is leading the talent revolution by inspiring people to unlock their potential and develop their skills. City & Guilds is recognised and respected by employers across the world as a sign of quality and exceptional training.

City & Guilds Group

The City & Guilds Group operates from three major hubs: London (servicing Europe, the Caribbean and Americas), Johannesburg (servicing Africa), and Singapore (servicing Asia, Australia and New Zealand). The Group also includes the Institute of Leadership & Management (management and leadership qualifications), City & Guilds Licence to Practice (land-based qualifications) and Learning Assistant (an online e-portfolio).

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