

Treat or remove tree stumps

Overview

This standard is about treating or removing tree stumps left after treework operations.

This includes the use of chemical and/or biological treatments for stumps and the use of motor-manual or mechanised equipment to remove stumps. This may involve the use of winches (hand-operated or motorised) and stump-processing machinery.

When working with chemicals or machinery you need to be appropriately trained, and hold current certification where required, in line with relevant legislation.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and implement appropriate working methods in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use the appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
5. confirm all equipment has been checked and is fit for purpose
6. maintain the security of machinery and equipment on site
7. identify the tree stumps and roots to be treated or removed, and assess their condition
8. locate, avoid or protect utility services and property
9. prepare tree stumps and roots in accordance with your assessment of their condition and with the specification
10. use treatment methods that are appropriate to the condition of the tree stump and root, the specification, relevant legislation, the situation and industry guidelines
11. use mechanical methods of removal appropriate to the condition of the stump and root, with regard to the specification, the situation and industry guidelines
12. remove all waste and surplus materials and dispose of them as specified
13. ensure the site is left in a condition which meets environmental requirements, in accordance with the specification
14. follow the environmental good practice set by your organisation and the industry, and minimise environmental damage
15. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the types of tools and equipment required and how to maintain and use them safely and effectively in line with the manufacturer's recommendations
5. the legal requirements for checking equipment
6. why it is important to maintain the safety and security of equipment and vehicles when on site
7. how to identify, locate and protect utility services and property and why this is important
8. how to select the appropriate method of treatment or removal, based on the existing condition of the tree stump
9. the biological methods of tree stump treatment and how to identify when these methods should be used
10. the correct anchoring of the winch and the compatibility of the winch components when removing tree stumps
11. the correct methods of disposing of surplus materials and/or waste
12. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
13. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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