

## Remove branches from felled trees using a chainsaw

### Overview

This standard is about the removal of branches (snedding or de-limbing) from felled trees or trees on the ground using a chainsaw. This will include felling onto a natural or created bench, brash mat or similar set up.

The standard covers both coniferous and broadleaved trees.

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

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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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 appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. select, prepare and use appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
5. carry out routine operator maintenance, pre-start checks and set the chainsaw for use
6. plan how you will carry out the activity and discuss any concerns with the appropriate person as to how best the work can be completed
7. meet specified safety guidelines and the environmental requirements of your organisation when removing branches from trees using a chainsaw
8. use a chainsaw to remove branches from felled trees using a recognised method appropriate to the tree branch pattern, size, form and condition and leave the stem as appropriate to the specification
9. turn trees and/or remove under-branches using appropriate aid tools and method(s)
10. ensure resultant brash is stacked, removed or broken down, as appropriate to the specification
11. ensure the site is left in a condition which meets environmental requirements, in accordance with the specification
12. 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 these safely and effectively in line with the manufacturer's recommendations
5. the legal requirements for checking equipment
6. why it is important to maintain chainsaws to a high standard
7. the implications of the terrain, ground conditions, season, weather and the condition of the tree on using a chainsaw to remove branches from felled trees
8. how the method of removing branches will vary with tree species, their form and condition and the safeguards required when de-limbing timber where branches or sections are upright or overhanging the operator
9. how to identify tension and compression in branches and the implications on the choice of severing method
10. how and when to use additional equipment, to assist with the snedding/de-limbing of felled trees
11. the use of appropriate heavy machinery to turn felled trees and the additional safeguards required for turning a tree and/or removing branches on the underside
12. the necessity and advantages of leaving a clean stem after de-limbing
13. the ways of dealing with brash and branches after de-limbing/snedding
14. the importance of checking how well you worked with others when removing branches from felled trees
15. the importance of checking how well you dealt with any problems when removing branches from felled trees
16. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
17. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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## Glossary

Potential impacts on the environment – such as red squirrel drays, badger sets, bat colonies

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