LANTw22

Cross-cut timber using a chainsaw

Overview

This standard is about cross-cutting timber using a chainsaw at ground level.

Operations will include cross-cutting timber under tension in the form of fallen branches, tops, tree sections, severed uprooted stems, horizontal stems, or any timber in a similar situation.

This includes cross-cutting timber into either manageable sections or to a given length and diameter specification, either where trees have been felled ("at stump"), or at a conversion point or where timber has been extracted.

Cross-cutting operations are often carried out in conjunction with the snedding or de-limbing process.

Timber under low and moderate tension is covered, but not timber under the extreme tensions found in, for example, windblown trees. The severing of root-plates is excluded.

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.

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 withthe assessed risks
3. select and usethe appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the workselect, prepare and use the appropriate tools and equipment, safely and effectively
4. confirm all equipment has been checked and is fit for purpose
5. carry out routine operator maintenance, pre-start checks and the setting of the chainsaw for use
6. inspecttimber and identify tension and compression
7. choose a recognised method for cross-cutting using a chainsaw thatis appropriate to the diameter and condition of the timber as well as to the guidebar length
8. cross-cut timber to length, using a chainsaw, in accordance with thejob specification
9. use appropriate boring cuts to initiate either tension orcompression cuts where bar access is limited
10. stack or load produce for subsequent operations, using appropriateaids and tools
11. gradetimber to given specification
12. observe safe manual handling
13. ensure timber is in an appropriate and safe position for subsequentoperations
14. communicate with others and maintain affective team work
15. deal with any problems within your own level of responsibility
16. ensure the site is left in a condition which meets environmentalrequirements, in accordance with the specification
17. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times,in accordance with relevant legislation

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. how to identify and judge levels and direction of tension and compression in timber
7. basic principles of tree physiology and how it affects the work
8. how to interpret product specifications of length and diameter and quality
9. how to identify the tree species from timber lengths
10. recognised methods of making a boring cut and the safeguards required
11. recognised methods required to cross-cut timber using a chainsaw which is both above and below guide bar length
12. how to safely move or roll timber either by hand or with the use of aid tools/mechanical assistance, observing manual handling best practice
13. how to cross-cut small diameter timber, using a chainsaw, under severe tension/compression
14. how to grade and present logs for extraction and/or further processing
15. methods of cross-cutting tension and compression wood, including the use of boring cuts and step cuts
16. the precautions to take to avoid logs rolling
17. how to present and identify produce for subsequent processing or dispatch
18. how to apply ergonomic working methods and the implications of manual handling regulations
19. the importance of checking how well you worked with others when cross-cutting timber
20. the importance of checking how well you dealt with any problems when cross-cutting timber
21. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
22. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation

Glossary

Timber – refers to wood in the form of fallen branches, tops, tree sections, severed uprooted stems, horizontal stems, or any timber in a similar situation.

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