
Overview

This standard is about cross-cutting trees 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 describes the cross-cutting of trees or 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 to where trees or timber have 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 e.g. windblown trees. The severing of root-plates is excluded

If you are working with chemicals or machinery you need to be appropriately trained or certificated in line with current legislation

This standard is for those using chainsaws

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed works
- P2 select and implement appropriate working method in accordance with the assessed risks
- P3 inspect timber and identify tension and compression
- P4 choose a recognised method for cross-cutting that is appropriate to the diameter and condition of the timber as well as guidebar length
- P5 cross-cut trees or timber to length, using a chainsaw in accordance with the job specification
- P6 use appropriate boring cuts to initiate either tension or compression cuts where bar access is limited
- P7 stack or load produce for subsequent operations using appropriate aids and tools
- P8 grade timber to given specification
- P9 observe safe manual handling
- P10 ensure timber is in an appropriate and safe position for subsequent operations
- P11 carry out routine operator maintenance, pre-start checks and setting of the machine for use
- P12 follow organisational and industry environmental good practice and minimise environmental damage
- P13 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times in accordance with current legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to identify and judge levels and direction of tension and compression in timber
- K2 basic principles of tree physiology and how it affects the work
- K3 how to interpret product specifications of length and diameter and quality
- K4 how to identify the tree species from timber lengths
- K5 recognised methods of making a boring cut and the safeguards required
- K6 recognised methods required to cross-cut timber which is both above and below guidebar length
- K7 how to safely move or roll timber by hand/with the use of aid tools/mechanical assistance observing manual handling best practice
- K8 how to cross-cut small diameter timber under severe tension/compression
- K9 how to grade and present logs for extraction and/or further processing
- K10 methods of cross-cutting tension and compression wood, including the use of boring cuts and step cuts
- K11 the precautions to take to avoid logs rolling
- K12 how to present and identify produce for subsequent processing or dispatch
- K13 how to apply ergonomic working methods and the implications of manual handling regulations.
- K14 the potential impacts of your work on the environment and how these can be minimised
- K15 your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation

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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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