



PUWER and CERTIFICATION in FORESTRY

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Chris Simpson.

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- **Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998**
- As of 5th December 1998
- Statutory Instrument 1998/2306
- Enabling act: Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Applies to: employers and self-employed who provide equipment at work.

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- **Guidance:**
- HSE Agricultural Information Sheet (AIS 27) “PUWER98: How the regulations apply to agriculture and forestry”.
- HSE “Simple guide to the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998”
- AFAG 805 “Training and certification”
- HSE “Safe use of work equipment. Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. Approved Code of practice and guidance”

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- **Regulations (particularly) relevant to Forestry:**

Reg 4: Suitability of work equipment

Reg 5: Maintenance

Reg 6: Inspection

Reg 7: Specific Risks

Reg 8: Information and instructions

Reg: 9 **Training**

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Reg 4: Suitability of work equipment

- Interpretation:
- Equipment must be appropriate to task and “fit for purpose”.
- Advice:
- avoid non CE mark equipment
- Have system for reporting defects

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Reg 5: Maintenance

- Interpretation:
- Where failure of equipment could result in serious accident, regular maintenance is required.
- Advice:
- Ideally record maintenance programme.

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Reg 6: Inspection

- Interpretation:
- Where significant risk could result from incorrect installation equipment should be inspected after installation. eg: Cable crane
- Advice:
- Ideally record inspection programme.
- Use appropriately qualified and independent inspector.
- LOLER evolved with more detailed requirements of Reg 6.

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Reg 7: Specific Risks

- Interpretation:
- Where the use of work equipment is likely to involve a specific risk to health or safety, every employer shall ensure that the use of the equipment is restricted to those that have adequate instruction/training in the use of it. eg Chainsaws, chippers etc
- Advice:
- Consider level of instruction provided. National standard?
- Any changes to equipment, task or current best practise? Up-to-date staff?

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Reg 8: Information and instructions

- Interpretation:
- Every employer shall ensure that all persons who use work equipment have available to them adequate health and safety information and, where appropriate, written instructions pertaining to the use of the work equipment
- Advice:
- Operator's manuals should be kept with the machine.
- AFAG guides pertaining to chippers, stump-grinders, chainsaws etc, should be stored with risk assessments – ON SITE!

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Reg: 9 Training

- Interpretation:
- Every employer shall ensure that all persons (and supervisors) who use work equipment have received adequate training for purposes of health and safety, including training in the methods which may be adopted when using the work equipment, any risks which such use may entail and precautions to be taken.
- Furthermore, for self-propelled work equipment and chainsaws proof of competence should be shown by holding a "certificate of competence" OR "national competence award".

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Reg: 9 Training

- Interpretation:
- Exception to certificate requirement:
- Where work is done as part of agricultural operations AND
- Is done by the occupier or an employee AND
- They have used a chainsaw before 5th Dec 1998

- Sound familiar? Control of pesticide Regs 1986.

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Reg: 9 Training

- Advice:
- Acceptable qualifications:

- NPTC CS units – no expiry date – there is no mention of NPTC in the SI.
- Lantra Occasional users certificates (ITAs) – maintain crosscut and fell up to 200mm diameter
- SVQ/NVQ
- NPTC Forest machine operation (FMO) units

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Reg: 9 Training

- Advice:
- Up-to-date operatives?

- Though largely ignored, HSE recommends (AFAG 805 & HSE INDG 37 “Chainsaws at work”);
- Occasional users: update at least every 2-3 years.
- Full time users: update at least every 5 years.

- Though update durations aren’t mentioned in Reg 9 of the SI.

NPTC Chainsaw Certification

Known as the CS suite, operators must complete, generally speaking, the units in order; the foundation units then prerequisite units.

FOUNDATION UNITS:

CS 30 – Maintain the chainsaw and crosscut.

CS38 – Climb trees and perform aerial rescue.

NPTC Chainsaw Certification

PREREQUISITE UNITS:

On ground route:

- CS 31 – Fell trees up to 380mm.
- CS42 – Stump protection (PA6a exemption)
- CS48 – Mechanised pole-pruner
- CS32 – Fell trees over 380mm. Note change (was up to 760mm)
- CS33 – Removed (for now)!
- CS34 – Sever individual windblown stems
- CS35 – Sever multiple windblown stems
- CS45 – Arboricultural ground worker
- CS43 – Fell utility poles
- CS44 – Fell standing stems
- CS50 – Techniques for dealing with damaged trees

NPTC Chainsaw Certification

PREREQUISITE UNITS:

Off ground route:

- CS46 – Re-pollard trees at a maximum height of 5 metres. (Don't need climbing ticket)
- CS47 – Operate chainsaw from a MEWP (Don't need climbing ticket)
- CS39 – Chainsaw from rope and harness
- CS40 – Crown thinning and reduction (often skipped)
- CS41 – Sectional dismantling operations (Rigging)

NPTC Chainsaw Training

- Training can be carried out by any competent person, in-house or externally.
- Public liability insurance is desirable but not legally required.
- Lantra Awards is the “National Training Organisation” (NTO) for the land-based sector.
- Lantra is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) (used to be referred to as the “lead body”) for the land-based sector.
- The “Trees and Timber Industry Group” is a committee (within the SSC) setting educational standards – the Trees & Timber National Occupational Standards (NOS).

NPTC Chainsaw Training

- The NOSs tie in with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).
- So, Lantra courses and NPTC assessments (sort of) tie-in and are awarded level 1, 2, 3 etc status in the NQF (mainly level 2)
- So again, if you are undertaking a college course your training and assessments may be allocated as “accredited prior learning”.

NPTC Chainsaw Assessments

- NPTC
- Started by the Young Farmers Club
- Originally “National Proficiency Tests Council”
- Represented in Scotland by “Scottish Skills Testing Service” (SSTS)
- Approved assessment centres were created (some years ago) making the registration of candidates an open market (not just NPTC and SSTS)
- Re-branded NPTC
- Currently – City & Guilds Land-based Services

NPTC Chainsaw Assessments

- **Future developments:**
 - Assessment suites are reviewed every five years
 - CS 32 likely to return to up-to 760mm
 - CS33 likely to return
 - Pole rescue may be dropped from CS38 – separate award only needed if undertaking CS41.
 - Award for “directional felling” (pull ropes and winches) may appear, or be included in CS31/CS32.

NPTC Chainsaw Assessments

- **Future developments:**
- Global On-line Assessments (GOLA) likely to be expanded; meaning cognitive elements will be completed in front of a computer.
- Digital pens and PDAs likely to be used by assessors. Meaning no need for administrative assessment centres?
- European Forestry and Environmental Skills Council being established this year will roll out “European Chainsaw Certification standards”.

CONTRACTORS

- “...health and safety responsibilities are defined by the criminal law and cannot be passed on from one party to another by a contract...”
- Clients need to satisfy themselves that contractors are competent (ie they have sufficient skills and knowledge) to do the job safely and without risks to health and safety. The degree of competence required will depend on the work to be done”.
- Reference: HSE “Use of contractors a joint responsibility”
- Related: Associated Octel Co. Ltd 1996 (Appeal Court) (the Octel decision)



Thank you for your attention.

ANY QUESTIONS?