



Chainsaw Training – Information pack from Simply The Best Training

Chainsaw training can appear quite complex, the thing to keep in mind is that it is **Progressive**.

There are only 2 Awarding bodies that can provide certificate of competence for chainsaw use, and they are

Lantra Awards

City and Guilds (formerly NPTC – National Proficiency Test Council)



Both Lantra Awards and City and Guilds accreditation is acceptable to all Employers and Organisations.



Step 1

FIRST STEP

Everyone **MUST** have **Maintenance and Cross-Cutting (M&CC)**

This was often referred to as the “basic ticket” for chainsaw use.

In the days of NPTC, it was called CS30. It covers H&S principles and regulations, basic operation, service and maintenance of the saw, PPE and cross cutting timber principles.

It does not cover felling

This step suits occasional users such as farmers, fencing contractors, landscapers etc, who may not require felling.



Once this is obtained – the client can progress to felling- if required.

Step 2

Felling principles - trees **up to** 380 mm diameter. (medium)

On completion of this felling component, they can progress further to

Felling principles – trees **over** 380 mm diameter (large)

(Felling used to be referred to as CS31,CS32)

Further progression is available but only after these are achieved.

THE FACTS

LET'S RETURN TO THE FIRST STEP - Maintenance and Cross-Cutting (M&CC)

Your provider may offer you a 2 day course for this. There is a maximum of 4 candidates on the course. It could be:

- Lantra cross cutting and maintenance ITA – Integrated Training and assessment.



Lantra certificate-of Training and assessment (ITA)

Lantra accredited

- Lantra cross cutting and maintenance training only- followed by separate assessment- often a third day, leading to **LEVEL 2 AWARD IN CHAINSAW MAINTENANCE AND CROSSCUTTING .**



Lantra certificate of attendance of accredited training, and Level 2 award if passed.

Lantra or City and guilds accredited.

- In house non accredited training followed by separate assessment leading to **LEVEL 2 AWARD IN CHAINSAW MAINTENANCE AND CROSSCUTTING .**



Level 2 award if passed.

Lantra or City and guilds accredited.

No certificate of training

SECOND STEP – FELLING

You MUST HAVE Maintenance and Cross-Cutting (M&CC)



ANY ONE OF 3 OPTIONS ABOVE ARE A PRE REQUISITE

The qualification will be Level 2 award in Felling & Processing Trees up to 380mm diameter.

If you have a Lantra ITA, you will take an assessment at end of course for:

Level 2 award in cross cutting maintenance and felling.

If you already have Level 2 award in Maintenance and Cross-Cutting (M&CC), your assessment will **be level 2 award in felling** only. (you already have level 2 award Maintenance and Cross-Cutting (M&CC))



NOW THIS IS WHERE IT CAN GET CONFUSING.....
THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO DO IT.

Providers have different models of delivery.

Some providers offer :-



Level 2 award in cross cutting maintenance and felling. – ALL IN ONE GO OPTION

Usually 5-6 days training and separate assessment
This involves crosscutting and maintenance first and the felling at the end of the week.

Advantages- for the experienced user, this is good consolidated training.

Disadvantages- very physically demanding and not suited to novice users
Can be very expensive -if they fail crosscutting and maintenance, they cannot be assessed for felling.

Some providers will offer :-

Cross cutting and maintenance- level 2 award or ITA – 2 days as a separate course. There is a break before training in felling .

Then felling training with **Level 2 award in cross cutting maintenance and felling** assessment on final day. 3-5 days

Advantages – Some clients may decide they do not want to go to felling.

-It allows the novice user time to practice and consolidate their training before progressing to felling. This is a good option for people in employability programmes, often they may decide they only need crosscutting and maintenance after all.

Disadvantages – can be more expensive in total than the all in go option, often an extra day required.

Important General Points WHEN TRAINING WITH US



Simply The best **usually** delivers Lantra cross cutting and maintenance ITA , followed by a break , then felling when required.

- In general all chainsaw courses are technically and physically demanding. Be prepared – experienced users often have bad habits!
- Understandably, there is a big emphasis on Health & Safety aspects in the use of chainsaws, which can impact in all sorts of ways - if someone presents themselves

for a course with PPE that is out of date, damaged or does not conform to current legislation, the instructor cannot start the course.

- To ensure we are never in this situation, our instructor carries stock PPE and saws in order for the training course to proceed. We ask you for your boot size, and body size (S, M, L, XL) before the course to ensure we have them available. There is no extra charge for this in the training.
- By all means bring your own saw (15" max guide bar recommended) and PPE, and our instructor can advise on suitability.
- The time scale for booking chainsaw training can be drawn-out due to a number of factors, including high demand, limited number of instructors, limited number of felling sites, seasonality, candidates being able to train on the same days (most training courses require a minimum number of candidates) etc.
- A realistic time scale from query to date of course is 6 – 10 weeks. Candidates may have to be prepared to travel some distance to the training venues and felling sites. Felling is also seasonal.
- Cancellation fee: We try to avoid this whenever possible, but the nature of chainsaw courses being 2-5 days in length means that an instructor is unable to fill days at short notice, and consequently may charge us for a week's lost work. Therefore we may have to charge for cancellations.
- If you are training here at our site, we can take photos for your Skills Identity Cards.

THE HISTORY!



Prior to 2012, Lantra awards used to provide training courses that had integrated assessment – ITA (Integrated Training and Assessment) for crosscutting and maintenance often referred to as" basic ticket" This was taken by people like fencing contractors, farmers etc.

LANTRA also had **non assessed training courses** for chainsaws, which could then be followed by a **NPTC (National Proficiency Tests Council) assessment** , which were always referred to as CS 30, 31, etc, which were used by people working in forestry. NPTC offered an assessment only.

Usually a Lantra Awards "training only" course is required in order to cover items for assessment, as there was no such thing as a "NPTC training course".

Technically, there was no legal requirement for training before sitting an NPTC assessment, however, without appropriate training; a candidate is very unlikely to pass the assessment

THE CURRENT SITUATION -FORESTRY AND ARBORICULTURE



Anyone working in or on trees is expected to have a recognised QCF (now RQF) qualification (certificate of competence). Training is a legal requirement of employers, including those that are self employed, and volunteers.

Chainsaw courses now have been **classified as qualifications** , and we use the acronym RQF, (which stands for Regulated Qualification Framework,) to show how they are constructed.

All qualifications are referred to as awards, certificates or diplomas. There are certain number of CREDITS attached to awards, certificates and diplomas.

Awards typically having 6-12 credits or “learning chunks “we call units, Certificates have a greater number etc

For all awards certificates and diplomas, they will have a level attached to them, e.g. level 2, level 3.

Level 2 is classically the level of the workplace; most vocational qualifications sit at level 2.

The majority of the chainsaw courses are now called

Level 2 award in chainsaw etc. “

The new qualifications consist of an assessment taken by a candidate, called licence to practice.

Currently both **City and Guilds** and **Lantra awards** can offer these new RQF qualifications.

Prior to this assessment, a training course is STRONGLY ADVISED, but not compulsory. This training may be accredited training, as delivered by Lantra Awards, or may be in-house.

Please be aware that when looking for providers of chainsaw training, some may be offering non accredited training, and the courses may be shorter than those indicated for accredited training. The decision is yours ultimately, but you need to know to compare like for like

THE CURRENT SITUATION -OUTSIDE FORESTRY AND ARBORICULTURE



Chainsaw operators working **outside** forestry and arboriculture at a basic level can attend an occasional user training course with assessment (sometimes known as ITA courses). The instructor trains and assesses the candidate on the training course itself. This applies to the operations of chainsaw maintenance, basic crosscutting and felling material up to 200 mm diameter and meets the requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. (Occasional users wishing to fell material over 200 mm diameter should hold the QCF qualifications in the forestry and arb section)

If you have any queries or require further information in respect of chainsaw training / courses then do not hesitate to contact us.

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Below is part of the HSE Leaflet – CHAINSAWS AT WORK that relates to training.

Training and Competence

All chainsaw use Chainsaws are potentially dangerous machines, which can cause major injury if used by untrained people. Anyone who uses a chainsaw at work should have received adequate training and be competent in using a chainsaw for that type of work.

The training should include:

- dangers arising from the chainsaw itself;
- dangers arising from the task for which the chainsaw is to be used; and
- the precautions to control these dangers, including relevant legal requirements.



Use of chainsaws in tree work The Approved Code of Practice supporting regulation 9 of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER 98) sets a minimum standard for competence of people using chainsaws in tree work:

‘All workers who use a chainsaw should be competent to do so.

Before using a chainsaw to carry out work on or in a tree, a worker should have received appropriate training and obtained a relevant certificate of competence or national competence award, unless they are undergoing such training and are adequately supervised.

However, in the agricultural sector, this requirement only applies to first-time users of a chainsaw.’

This means everyone working with chainsaws on or in trees should hold such a certificate or award unless:

- it is being done as part of agricultural operations (e.g. hedging, clearing fallen branches, pruning trees to maintain clearance for machines); and
- the work is being done by the occupier or their employees; and
- they have used a chainsaw before 5 December 1998. In any case, operators using chainsaws for any task in agriculture or any other industry must be competent under PUWER 98.