



NPTC Level 2 Certificate of Competence in Safe use of Hedgetrimmers

Learners' Information Sheet

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About the Qualifications

This is a practical assessment of hedge trimmer operations. It includes pre-use checks and maintenance; identification of controls and instruments; operating the machine to trim a hedge (length, side and top) or verge (including around obstacles). The test is taken in the context of handheld hedge trimmer, tractor mounted hedge trimmer or a tractor mounted implement, used as a verge mower only. There is also an additional unit called "Hedgerow Maintenance Principles", this can be taken on its own and is a theory assessment of the laws and environmental best practices regarding hedgerow maintenance.

Key Points

- It is suitable for candidates:-
 - who wish to develop skills in hedgetrimmer use
 - who wish to add new skills to their portfolio
 - who wish to be identified as competent operators
 - who wish to promote a professional image

Benefits of the Qualification

- A certificate of competence demonstrates that the successful candidate has practical experience, technical knowledge and ability which has been independently and reliably assessed.

Assessment

The assessment requires a practical demonstration of the candidate's competence for the unit being taken. Underpinning knowledge and understanding will be assessed orally.

Appropriate PPE must be worn at all times.

If the qualification is to be assessed with an electrical hand held hedge trimmer it must be a professional 110 volt unit.

All equipment used for assessment must comply with the PUWER (1998) regulations.

The operator's/manufacture's handbook must be available to the candidate and assessor.

Any breach of safety regulations will result in the assessment being terminated

Units of the Qualification

The assessment is divided into five units

Unit 1 Pre-use safety – Hedge Trimmers (Compulsory)

Unit 2 Operate hand held powered hedge trimmers (optional)

Unit 3 Operate tractor mounted hedge trimmer (optional)

Unit 4 Operate tractor mounted verge mowers (optional)

Unit 5 Hedgerow maintenance principles (optional)

Please note, units 3 and 4 do not cover connecting the hedge trimmer to the tractor.

To be awarded a Certificate of Competence, candidates must successfully achieve all assessment activities in:

Either

Units 1 and 2 (certificate endorsed "handheld powered hedge trimmer") or

Units 1 and 3 (certificate endorsed "Tractor mounted hedge trimmer") or

Units 1 and 4 (certificate endorsed "Tractor mounted verge mower")

Learning Outcomes

The candidate will be able to:

- Prepare a handheld or tractor mounted hedgetrimmer for operational safety
- Identify the key controls on the machine and their function
- Identify the risks of the operation and check the work site for hazards
- Carry out routine maintenance on hand held or tractor mounted hedgetrimmer
- Operate a handheld or tractor mounted powered hedgetrimmer, working competently using correct tools and equipment safely and observing all relevant health and safety legislation
- State the knowledge and understanding required, relating to PPE, legislation and safety
- State the knowledge and understanding to the maintenance of hedgerows

Copies of the schedules detailing the assessment criteria for all of the above units can be downloaded from our website at:- www.nptc.org.uk/assessment-schedules

What's the next step?

In the first instance you need to contact an NPTC registered Assessment Centre who offers this qualification. To find your nearest Assessment Centre, go to NPTC's website www.nptc.org.uk and follow the link to "Assessment Centres".

The Assessment Centre will be able to advise on the training and assessment of the qualification.

We strongly advise that all candidates attend a course of instruction before the assessment to ensure that they are properly equipped with the knowledge, skills and resources for a successful assessment. Training can be provided through independent training providers/Instructors, local training groups or colleges.

Candidates will be assessed "competent" or not "yet competent".

When all of your assessments have been completed your local Assessment Centre will forward the results to NPTC so that the certificate and ID Cards can be issued, a process which normally takes about four weeks.

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