

Chainsaw Operator Training

What you need to bring



The Personal Protective Equipment:

- ❖ Safety helmet complying with EN397. It is recommended that arborists working from a rope and harness use a mountaineering style helmet.
- ❖ Suitable hearing protection complying with EN352.
- ❖ Eye protection: mesh visor complying with EN1731 or safety glasses to EN166.
Upper body protection: Chainsaw jackets to BS EN 381-11. Chainsaw jackets can provide additional protection where operators are at increased risk (eg trainees, unavoidable use of a chainsaw above chest height). However, this needs to be weighed against increased heat stress generated by physical exertion (eg working from a rope and harness).
- ❖ Gloves*: The use of appropriate gloves is recommended under most circumstances. The type of glove will depend on a risk assessment of the task and machine. Consider the need for protection from cuts from the chainsaw, thorny material and cold/wet conditions. Where chainsaw gloves are required these need to be to have protective guarding on back of left hand and comply with EN 381-7.
- ❖ Leg protection* incorporating chain clogging materials complying with EN381-5. (All-round protection is recommended for arborists working in trees, for trainees and occasional users, such as those working in agriculture.)
- ❖ Protective boots* with good grip and protective guarding at front vamp and instep complying with BS EN ISO 20345:2004 and bearing a shield depicting a chainsaw to show compliance with EN 381-3. (For occasional users working on even ground where there is little risk of tripping or snagging on undergrowth or brash, protective gaiters conforming to EN 381-9 may be worn in combination with steel-toe-capped safety boots.)
- ❖ Non-snap outer clothing. The use of high-visibility clothing may also be appropriate.
- ❖ Personal first-aid kit including a large wound dressing.

All personal protective equipment must comply with HSE/CE standards and must be undamaged and fully serviceable. *These items should carry the CE chainsaw logo

Chainsaw and Equipment:

- ❖ Rear handled chainsaw
- ❖ Maximum recommended guide bar length is 15"
- ❖ Manufacturer's handbook
- ❖ Ensure the stop switch works and is clearly marked;
- ❖ Ensure the front hand guard/chain brake, chain catcher and anti-vibration mounts are undamaged and functional;
- ❖ Ensure the throttle opens only when the throttle lock is depressed;
- ❖ Ensure it is fitted with a chain type recommended by the manufacturer and is designed to reduce kickback, which is the uncontrolled upward and/or backward motion of the guide bar. It happens when the nose of the guide bar contacts an object such as a log or branch or when the wood pinches the saw chain in the cut
- ❖ Ensure the exhaust system and silencer are in good order;
- ❖ Ensure there is a mandatory hearing protection symbol on the chainsaw.
- ❖ Make sure you have the equipment recommended by the manufacturer to carry out sharpening, maintenance and adjustments and a chain cover for transportation.
- ❖ Tool belt with logger tape, pulp hook and tongs
- ❖ Breaker bar with cant hook
- ❖ High lift wedges

Useful Publications:

- ❖ HSE Chainsaws at work INDG 317
- ❖ HSE Managing Health & Safety in Forestry INDG 294
- ❖ FISA Safety Guides 301, 302, 303, 304, 802 and 804

