



**QQI**

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

## Component Specification NFQ Level 5

### Felling and Processing Small Trees 5N3405

#### 1. Component Details

<b>Title</b>	Felling and Processing Small Trees
<b>Teideal as Gaeilge</b>	Crainn Bheaga a Leagadh agus a Phróiseáil
<b>Award Type</b>	Minor
<b>Code</b>	5N3405
<b>Level</b>	5
<b>Credit Value</b>	5
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of this award is to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill and competence to fell and process small trees.
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	Learners will be able to:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Carry out risk assessment for a chainsaw and felling and processing small trees</li><li>2 Plan a felling operation, preparing a site for felling</li><li>3 Explain the legal requirements for tree felling, angle of sink cut, the risks associated with using a pushing chain, de-limbing a felled tree, and unsafe practices taking down hung trees</li><li>4 Carry out routine chainsaw pre-starting checks specified in the operator's manual</li><li>5 Demonstrate the correct procedures for preparing a tree, felling in a specified direction including trees weighted with and slightly against the felling direction</li></ol>

- 6 Demonstrate the correct procedures for crosscutting and stacking a felled tree to given specification
- 7 Take down a hung-up small tree
- 8 Prepare a chainsaw for storage including cleaning, sharpening and setting.

## Assessment

### General Information

All assessment should be planned in accordance with the programme assessment strategy developed as part of the programme submission for validation. See **Policies and Criteria for Validation of Programmes**. Assessment should be undertaken consistently and reflect current assessment guidelines. See [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

All FET assessment is criterion referenced. Successful achievement of the award is based on learners attaining the required standards of knowledge, skill or competence consistent with the **minimum intended programme learning outcomes**.

The techniques set out below are considered the optimum approach to assessment for this component. In exceptional circumstances providers may identify alternative assessment techniques through the provider's application for programme validation which are reliable and valid but which are more appropriate to their context.

Assessment of a number of components may be integrated across programmes for delivery, provided that the learning outcomes of each minor award are assessed.

Group or team work may form part of the assessment, provided each learner's achievement is separately assessed.

All providers are required to submit an assessment plan as part of their application for programme validation. Assessment Plans will include information relating to scheduling and integration of assessment. See current FET validation guidelines at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie).

### Assessment Techniques

In order to demonstrate that they have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence identified in all the learning outcomes, learners are required to complete the assessment(s) below.

The assessor is responsible for devising assessment instruments (e.g. project and assignment briefs, examination

papers), assessment criteria and mark sheets, consistent with the techniques identified below and QQI's assessment requirements.

Programme validation will require providers to map each learning outcome to its associated assessment technique. All learning outcomes **must** be assessed and achieved in accordance with the **minimum intended module learning outcomes** set out in the validated programme.

Skills Demonstration	60%
Examination - Interview Style	40%

## Description

### Skills Demonstration

*A skills demonstration is used to assess a wide range of practical based learning outcomes including practical skills and knowledge. A skills demonstration will require the learner to complete a task or series of tasks that demonstrate a range of skills.*

The assessor will devise a skills demonstration based on learning outcomes 4 - 8. The learner must complete the 20 tasks set out in the list below

#### Weighting Factor

Where a critical fault occurs the entire skill demonstration must be terminated.

0 mark for termination of skill demonstration due to a critical fault or failure to complete the task.

1 mark for completing the task with 3 or more minor faults

2 marks for completing the task with less than 3 minor faults

3 marks for exceeding the criteria for the task with no minor faults

Examples of critical faults: compromises safety, animal welfare, the environment

Examples of minor faults: Incorrect sequence, too slow, requires guidance

The learner must achieve at least 40 of the 60 marks available, to pass this assessment. The learner must pass this assessment to achieve the award.

#### List of tasks:

- 1 Carries out safety assessment (hazards, risks and controls) associated with chainsaw maintenance and crosscutting operation
- 2 Wears appropriate personal protective equipment
- 3 Explains legal and environmental considerations

- 4 Explains the Emergency Action Plan
- 5 Devise a plan for the felling operation
- 6 Prepares chainsaw for work checking chain tension
- 7 Prepares the site for felling operation
- 8 Prepares the tree for felling
- 9 Demonstrates correct practice of using a pushing chain
- 10 Fells a tree in a specified direction
- 11 Explains the cuts used to fell the tree
- 12 De-limbs and tops the tree
- 13 Cross cuts and stacks timber to required lengths
- 14 Prepares a site to take down a hung tree
- 15 Devises a plan to take down a hung tree with hand tools
- 16 Outlines unsafe procedures during the take down of a hung tree
- 17 Takes down a hung tree using hand tools
- 18 Explains procedures when taking down a hung tree with a winch or machine
- 19 Tidies site as specified.
- 20 Prepares the chainsaw and equipment for storage

Overall Marks 60

### **Examination - Interview Style**

*An examination provides a means of assessing a learner's ability to recall and apply knowledge, skills and understanding within a set period of time and under clearly specified conditions.*

*An interview style examination assesses learning through verbal questioning, one-to-one or in a group.*

The assessor will devise an interview based examination to assess learning outcomes 1 - 3.

Overall marks 40

### **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

To support the development and implementation of RPL with regard to access, granting credit/exemptions and achievement of awards/parts of awards, providers should refer to **QQI's Statutory Guidelines for Quality Assurance**, the **Policies and Criteria for Validation of Programmes** and the **Principles and Operational Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Further and Higher Education and Training** available at [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)

<b>Grading</b>	Pass	50% - 64%
	Merit	65% - 79%
	Distinction	80% - 100%
<b>Specific Validation Requirements</b>	There are no specific validation requirements	
<b>Supporting Documentation</b>	None	
<b>Access</b>	<p>To access programmes leading to this award the learner should have reached the standards of knowledge, skill and competence associated with the preceding level of the National Framework of Qualifications. This may have been achieved through a formal qualification or through relevant life and work experience.</p> <p>The learner must have achieved 5N3404 Chainsaw Operations.</p>	
<b>Transfer</b>	<p>Successful completion of this component award enables the learner to transfer to programmes leading to other certificates where this component is a mandatory or an elective requirement.</p>	

## 2. FET Award Standards

QQI award standards are determined within the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), <http://www.nfq-qqi.com>. QQI determines standards for the education and training awards that it makes itself and that are made by providers to whom it has delegated authority to make an award. Providers offering programmes leading to QQI awards **must** have their programme(s) validated in accordance with current validation policy (see [www.qqi.ie](http://www.qqi.ie)).

Award standards are designed to be consistent with the NFQ's award classes i.e. major, special purpose, supplemental and minor awards. They are expressed in terms of **learning outcomes** i.e. concise statements of what the learner is expected to know or be able to do in order to achieve a particular award. Learning outcomes for FET awards are contained within the associated specifications:

AWARD CLASS	STANDARDS	AWARDS
Major Award	Certificate Specification	Certificate (Levels 1 to 5) Advanced Certificate (Level 6)
Supplemental Award	Supplemental Specification	Supplemental Certificate (Level 3 to 6)
Special Purpose	Specific Purpose Specification	Specific Purpose Certificate (Levels 3 to 6)
Minor Award	Component Specification	Component Certificate (Levels 1 to 6)

Award standards are thresholds, they describe standards of knowledge, skill or competence to be acquired, and where appropriate, demonstrated, by a learner before an award may be made.

Award standards will be reviewed from time to time as necessary. Minor changes may be made by the QQI executive outside the review cycle where necessary. Changes to standards are published on QQI's website. Providers with validated programmes and providers with delegated authority to make awards are responsible for monitoring relevant standards and making necessary responses to changes.

### 3. FET Credit

Every FET certificate and component specification includes an FET credit value (Table 1). FET credit is quantified in multiples of 5 FET credits (up to 50 hours of learner effort). Learner effort is based on the time taken by typical learners at the level of the award to achieve the learning outcomes for the award. It includes all learning time involved including: guided learning hours, self-directed learning and assessment.

**Table 1: FET Credit Values**

NFQ Level	Major Awards Credit Values	Default Credit Values Minor Awards	Other Permitted Minor Award Credit Values	Special Purpose and Supplemental Award Credit Value Ranges
1	20	5	10	
2	30	5	10	
3	60	10	5,20	>5 and <60
4	90	10	5,15,20	>5 and <90
5	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120
6	120	15	5,10,30	>5 and <120

### Guide to Level

Learning outcomes at this level include a broad range of skills that require some theoretical understanding. The outcomes may relate to engaging in a specific activity, with the capacity to use the instruments and techniques relating to an occupation. They are associated with work being undertaken independently, subject to general direction.

Strand	Sub-strand	Nature of learning
Knowledge	Breadth	Broad range of knowledge
	Kind	Some theoretical concepts and abstract thinking, with significant depth in some areas. Some underpinning theory
Know How & Skill	Range	Demonstrate a broad range of specialised skills and tools
	Selectivity	Evaluate and use information to plan and develop investigative strategies and to determine solutions to varied unfamiliar problems
Competence	Context	Act in a range of varied and specific contexts, taking responsibility for the nature and quality of outputs; identify and apply skill and knowledge to a wide variety of contexts

Role	Exercise some initiative and independence in carrying out defined activities; join and function within multiple, complex and heterogeneous groups
Learning to Learn	Learn to take responsibility for own learning within a managed environment
Insight	Assume full responsibility for consistency of self- understanding and behaviour

*Extract from 'Determinations for the Outline National Framework of Qualifications': NQAI*

